Minutes of the
Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the World Council of Churches
17-23 November, 2017
Amman, Jordan

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1. Prayers

Every morning, except for on Sunday, prayers were held at the Landmark Amman Hotel and led by executive committee members.

On 17 November, the scripture readings were Psalm 95:1-7 and Mark 4:1-9. His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem, All Palestine and Jordan joined the executive committee for these prayers. During the prayers, everyone was invited to share their reflections on the scripture with their neighbours.

On 18 November, the prayers were according to the Armenian Orthodox tradition. The scripture readings were Acts 8:26-40 and John 1:35-51.

On 19 November, the executive committee attended the Divine Liturgy at the Presentation of the Lord Orthodox Cathedral in Amman. The service was conducted in Arabic and Greek. Metropolitan H.E. Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste said the Lord's Prayer, and Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev assisted the bishop in the service. The scripture reading was from Luke.

In the Orthodox tradition, in the 40 days after a baby is born, the baby is brought for a blessing. On that Sunday, several babies were blessed. The general secretary spoke during the service; he shared that the executive committee was very happy to be there, that the members were from all different parts of the world, and that they are working together for unity, justice, and peace. Following the blessing of the babies, he commented that we are all children of God, and that the church is working towards peace in a less-than-peaceful region.

Following the service, the executive committee was invited into the residence of H.E. Metropolitan Venedictos of Philadelphia for light refreshments. His Eminence informed the group of the day-care centre and medical centre next to the church. The executive committee had a tour of these facilities, and met the people in charge of both centres. The committee members also received a photo of Jesus' baptismal site, on the Jordan River, taken by His Majesty King Abdullah II.

On 20 November, the scripture readings were Psalm 51; Jeremiah 14; Psalm 119: 53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; and Romans 2:1-11. After readings, the executive committee had a time of silent reflection.

On 21 November, the scripture readings were Psalm 13 and selections from the book of Lamentations. The reflection was an excerpt from the document "Kairos Palestine: A Moment of Truth".

On 22 November, the scripture reading was Exodus 16:1-8. After the scripture reading, the executive committee was invited into a time of silent reflection on what the "desert" means for us today on our pilgrimage of justice and peace.

On 23 November, the scripture readings were Psalm 142 and Matthew 9:35-10:8. After the last scripture readings, the executive committee had a time of silent reflection.

2. Opening Actions

2.1 Roll Call

Dr Agnes Abuom (Anglican Church of Kenya), moderator of the central committee, welcomed everyone to the executive committee meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

She moderated a hearing session and invited the WCC general secretary, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, to read the roll call. The general secretary first offered a warm welcome to H.B. Theophilos III, Patriarch

of the Holy City of Jerusalem, All Palestine and Jordan. The general secretary also welcomed everyone to this executive committee meeting. The general secretary then read the roll call.

Apologies were received from the following members of the executive committee:

- Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae (Presbyterian Church of Korea)
- Rev. Dr Paul Gardner (Moravian Church in Jamaica)
- H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Ecumenical Patriarchate)
- Mr Thomas Hyeono Kang (Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil)
- Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou (Church of Greece)
- Most Rev. Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko (Methodist Church Nigeria)

Dr Abuom brought greetings from vice-moderator, Metropolitan Gennadios. She noted that he has a synod meeting the following week and it would be difficult for him to be away at this time. The full list of participants is in Appendix I.

2.2 Sharing by Members

Dr Abuom invited participants to share from their regions and contexts.

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Holy See of Cilicia]) shared about her context, which is also in this Middle East region, and which is currently experiencing challenges. There was an important meeting this past summer on Armenian identity and she reflected on the on-going effects of the Armenian genocide. They also had a consultation about what a new Armenian identity means. They need to share from and learn from one another's experiences. In the region, there are many meetings happening to discuss co-existence and peace. Recently, His Holiness Catholicos Aram I spoke at a meeting in Greece on peaceful co-existence in the Middle East. Churches are in the forefront for any political discussion.

Rev. Dr Micheline Kamba Kasongo (Église du Christ au Congo - Communauté presbytérienne de Kinshasa) noted that twenty leaders recently graduated from her master's programme at the Congo Protestant University. The Minister of Higher Education attended the graduation and was very excited about this. The situation in the country is difficult because of the pending election. People want to have an election next year, but there are problems. She is grateful that churches are following the situation. The WCC women's pilgrimage to Congo was postponed till January as there were visa problems

Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins (Christian Church [Disciples of Christ] in the United States) offered a report from the US context. She reflected on the visit to the country from the WCC leadership, particularly in solidarity with the US on issues of racial justice; this continues to resonate very strongly. The National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCCUSA) has agreed to undertake a long-term process on truth and racial justice, particularly focusing on the need to tell the truth around on the complicity of churches and white Americans on white supremacy in the United States. Many white Americans do not know or understand what it means to be complicit in this area, and sometimes they do not have the heart to know. The churches in the USA would be glad for continued solidarity and prayers.

They will do this work of racial justice in the broader context of the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024). There will be a major launch for their truth and racial justice work on 4 April 2018, the date of the 50th anniversary of the assassination of civil rights leader Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. There will be a gathering on the Washington Mall that day, even as there will also be gatherings in Memphis. There will be a focus on the civil rights movement and addressing the unfinished agenda of the civil rights movement, in the name of love and in the name of beloved community. She is grateful for the accompaniment WCC and calling our attention for us to continue to be involved in this work.

Dr Audeh B. Quawas (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem) offered his thanks to the moderator of the central committee and to H.B. Patriarch Theophilos. He shared that it was their pleasure to host the executive committee meeting in Amman. He wanted to thank the patriarch not only for the invitation to have the executive committee meeting here in Jordan, but also for his commitment to the ecumenical movement. Dr Quawas shared that he is grateful for the work we have been doing as executive committee over the past four years, since the Busan Assembly.

He shared that there is suffering in the region, and there are strong political pressures. He hoped for a strong statement so that WCC's position will be clear and that the work for peace will be stronger for more advocacy in our member churches. It is not enough to issue statements; WCC's role with our governments and in our regions is important for all of the churches in the region. He hoped that public issues sub-committee could bring a statement about the Middle East.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) began with thanks and shared that she had come directly from her church's synod meeting in Bonn, Germany. This was also the location of COP 23, and so they were able to have some cross-over between their synod meeting and the global meeting on climate change. The WCC general secretary was welcomed at the synod and they also started to evaluate their Reformation celebrations.

She noted that although she is a person from a Protestant Church, the 500th anniversary was not only a Protestant one but one for the ecumenical church. At their synod, they had the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC) joining an ecumenical statement with Roman Catholics, and speaking about trying to overcome divisions. They had people travelling from one European city to another – in total, about 68 European sites, collecting stories of the reformation. They also had representatives of partner churches and denominations over a period of three months in Wittenberg. They wanted to create different relationships and she reflected that personally that it was an amazing experience.

Bishop Bosse-Huber also noted that the invitation of the EKD for the next WCC assembly to be in Germany was now more concrete and that they were proposing the city of Karlsruhe as the location. Karlsruhe is a large, creative, attractive, and charming city in the middle of the mountains; it is the location of ecumenical and engaged churches. More details about the assembly proposal will be presented at the next central committee meeting.

Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang (Gereja Toraja) shared that the government and religious leaders are working hard to fight radicalism in Indonesia. There is a growing influence of Arab-ization and a politicization of religion based on race and ethnicity. The churches in Indonesia are dealing with issues of poverty, justice, radicalization, and economics. Materialism is making people increasingly greedy. Churches are fighting to promote values of peace, sharing, and justice. A meeting took place recently for the 500 year anniversary of the reformation, and all Christian families in the country were there including the Roman Catholic Church, evangelical, Pentecostal, and the Orthodox families. She hoped this kind of initiative would help heal the wounds from the past and encourage the churches to work together in society.

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson (United Methodist Church) shared about a recent trip the NCCCUSA made to the Middle East in September. She was on this trip, along with H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian, and the general secretary and president of the NCCCUSA. On this trip, some went to Beirut first and met with the Middle East Council of Churches. Then, they first went to Egypt and met with the Grand Mufti on Muslim Christian relations. They also met with the president of the country who spent two hours and talked with them in depth. The group met with Coptic Orthodox leaders and worshipped in St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church, which is the church that had been bombed. They also met with other Protestant and other leaders in Egypt.

The NCCCUSA delegation had also visited Amman, Mount Nebo, and to Jesus' baptismal site in the Jordan region. The patriarch hosted them for dinner, and brought other religious leaders. In

Bethlehem, they met with the Lutheran church, and they brought other leaders including the Mayor of Bethlehem. Their trip also included Ramallah and Hebron.

She also informed the group that the leadership of the central committee had met in Nairobi where they met with the National Council of Churches of Kenya, and member churches, and learned from them. They talked about how we want to walk together. They met with Greek Orthodox churches and went to a children's school. Both of these visits are recent examples of being on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (PJP) together.

H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin]) affirmed that the NCCCUSA trip to the Middle East was very successful. He had also recently accompanied the WCC general secretary on a trip to Iraq. Since then, he has spoken many times in different places about the place of Christians in the Middle East. He noted that in Cairo, when they met with the president, he was very open, even to criticism. Christians in the Middle East expect that the WCC does not forget them and this is why those trips are extremely important.

He then took the opportunity to congratulate Bishop Dr Aregawi Melese of South Gondar (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church) on his elevation to bishop since the last executive committee meeting. . Dr Abuom also asked that the committee extends congratulations to Bishop Aregawi Melese. A round of applause was offered.

Bishop Simo Peura (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) reflected on 500 years of reformation. A highlight in the church is the dialogue paper on Roman Catholic and Lutheran dialogues on Eucharist, ministry, and church. As a result of the Finnish Lutheran-Catholic dialogue, there are now differences in practice of the Eucharist. A more difficult issue is ministry. The document has been given to the ELCF archbishop, and it will be given to the LWF. In January it will be given to Pope Francis when they are celebrating in Rome. He offered members copy of the document.

Rev. Robina Marie Winbush (Presbyterian Church [USA]) shared that two weeks earlier, her church had taken a delegation to South Korea. The almost twenty person delegation was led by the stated clerk and followed up on a general assembly action apologizing for some of the atrocities committed by US military during the Korean war. She is grateful for the NCC Korea and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea. Their stated clerk left with a commitment to look for peace and reconciliation in the region. She added that in two weeks there would be a delegation to Palestine-Israel during which there will be discussions on Boycott-Divestment-Sanctions (BDS). The other part will be about continuing to accompany partners in that region.

Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah (Church of Pakistan) informed everyone about the new moderator and a new presiding bishop in his church. Recently, the elected prime minister was forced to leave the office by the Supreme Court. The Church of Pakistan continues to be more stable than in the past. He looks forward to its contributions in the years to come.

He also asked if the committee could record and offer a prayer for the late Bishop Dr Yap Kim Hao, third general secretary of the Christian Conference of Asia, who had just died on 16 November in Singapore. Yap Kim Hao was consecrated the first Asian bishop of the Methodist Church in Singapore and Malaysia in 1968. He was actively involved with work with people disabilities and HIV/AIDS. He requested having time of remembrance and a special letter from the general secretary.

Bishop Aregawi Melese thanked Archbishop Vicken Aykazian for introducing him. By God's help and guidance he is now an archbishop in Ethiopia. This is a high responsibility in his life. He has responsibility for the body of Christ and for his ministry. He thanked the group for their prayers.

Dr Abuom offered thanks for this sharing.

2.3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session.

She noted that there were two proposed additions to the committee's agenda:

- A suggestion from Dr Quawas to include an addition to the public issues, and a statement on the Middle East
- A suggestion from Bishop Samuel Azariah to offer condolences and prayers for Bishop Dr Yap Kim Hao, who passed away on 16 November.

The general secretary drew the committee's attention to the annotated agenda. He reflected that this is an attempt at something new, and would be interested in receiving the comments of the executive committee on the usefulness of such an annotated agenda. He shared that the purpose of the annotated agenda is so that everyone can be better prepared for each session; it is an attempt to say what the objectives are for this meeting.

Dr Tveit also noted that when a person passes away who was active in the ecumenical movement, the normal procedure is that is that the general secretary issues a letter; they will do that in this case.

With these suggestions, the agenda was approved by consensus.

2.4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr Abuom invited the general secretary to share about the list of documents for this meeting and the minutes. Dr Tveit referred people to the document list, which he hoped would be useful for this meeting.

Dr Tveit shared that it was not possible to print copies of the minutes on time for this meeting. Currently, the draft minutes are only available electronically. He proposed that the minutes be printed and then sent out. Executive committee members will be asked to give their comments before Christmas, so that this business is finished before they finish their terms. A corrected version will be presented to the next meeting to formally approve the minutes.

As usual, following the approval, the minutes are shared with all members of the central committee.

Dr Quawas noted that there will be two sets of minutes to be approved by the next executive committee – for the meetings in June and November 2017. The members who are remaining on the executive committee have the responsibility to ensure the continuity of this executive committee.

This proposal was approved by consensus.

In response to a question about the accountability of the outgoing members of the executive committee to the next assembly, the general secretary responded that the central committee would report on the period since Busan to the next assembly. All of the executive committee members, both incoming and outgoing at this half way point, are central committee members. Dr Abuom confirmed that the central committee is the mechanism to provide accountability under the re-composed executive committee.

2.5 APPROVAL OF SUB-COMMITTEES (MEMBERSHIP)

Dr Abuom asked for the approval of the sub-committee membership. One addition was made to the sub-committee membership: Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) will attend the finance sub-committee as an observer.

The membership of the sub-committees was approved by consensus.

Later in the meeting, Dr Abuom noted that when the public issues sub-committee had their first meeting, there were fewer than usual people present at their meeting. The moderator of the public issues sub-committee, H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste (Romanian Orthodox Church), asked if a few additional people could join the sub-committee.

The following members were added to the public issues sub-committee: Rev. Robina Winbush, Rev. Baoping Kan (China Christian Council), and Bishop Samuel Azariah.

These additions to the public issues sub-committee were approved by consensus.

A full list of sub-committee membership is in Appendix II.

3. Reports of the Moderator and General Secretary

3.1 MODERATOR'S REPORT

Dr Agnes Abuom moderated a hearing session. She offered her moderator's report, as follows.

May I on behalf of the executive committee sincerely thank His Beatitude Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and all Palestine, Syria and beyond the Jordan for the gracious invitation to Amman Jordan and the warm hospitality. Our gratitude is also to Dr Quawas and his team for the efforts in ensuring that we meet. We look forward to a fruitful interaction and fellowship during our stay. For many of us it is the first time to visit Amman and we come with open hearts and minds to learn about and share in the life and witness of the Church.

We will take up the concerns raised. As you know Palestine/Israel remains a focus.

It is a great honour for me to welcome members of the executive committee to the eighth executive committee meeting since our last WCC assembly. We give God the glory for protection and journey mercies as we have traversed various countries to comply with the mandate given to us by the central committee as well as fellowship with member churches in the respective regions. During the past four years, the secretariat has made efforts to ensure that one of our meetings is held in a region by accepting the invitation of our member churches to host the executive committee.

It is exactly four years ago since the 10th Assembly of the WCC was held in Busan, South Korea. After circa ten days of fellowship, deliberations and encounter with the local context and churches in South Korea, the assembly message was: "*We are committed to move together*". Hitherto, the WCC had operated under the motto coined at its founding assembly "*we are committed to stay together*". The operative theme has been the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace around which the WCC invited member churches, people of other faiths and men and women of good will to join in the pilgrimage.

Our journey together during these past four years has been by characterized by grace and by faith. We began the journey not knowing everyone but we took a bold step to move together. After four years we have at least removed the iceberg; we can now say we know each other, we can stop to rest and share narratives of our lives, families, church and countries let alone eating meals together. From taking cautious steps with one another, we now can raise questions to one another. I can say that, our journey together has centred around the love and care of humanity and nature/creation.

As people of the way, the PJP has been a reminder that we are not walking alone, but in the company of others and more importantly in the company of Jesus Christ who said. *I am the Way, the truth and the life (John 6:14)*. It is possible that on our walk as a committee, we have experienced challenges

related to truth and life. Truth telling can at times be shrouded and impaired by demons of fear and yet as some of us prepare to exit and also invite new members, we feel more confident to share our opinions than when we began.

The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace Process: since the assembly, programmatic work of the council has been tailored around the pilgrimage of justice and peace. Additionally, the reference group on PJP identified regions and countries of focus for walking, journeying and praying together with communities and churches. These include Palestine/Israel in the Middle East, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria. In Latin America the focus is Columbia while issues of racism in the USA have also received attention. In Europe the Middle East refugee crisis emanating from the Syrian war and concerns around migration dominate the discourse. The invitation by WCC to PJP states inter alia "*Christians and communities, know… that life itself is in peril"*. Many pilgrims have not only witnessed this reality, they have accompanied communities in highlighting their pain as well as pray with them.

In August, the pilgrimage of women *"Walking her stories"* visited Jos in Plateau State and Yola in Adamawa state. Here our experiences of *via negativa, via transformativa and via positiva* came to life as we listened to the women, children and men impacted by Boko Haram violence. As pilgrims worshipped in a Church of the Brethren Nigeria (EYN) church in Abuja, women congregants were excited and encouraged to see one of us in a colour and their hope that one day they will have one of their own female theologians ordained was apparent on their faces.

Democracy under siege: The trend witnessed today is that democracy is under threat in many parts of the world and in turn human rights and dignity could be seriously undermined. Independence of democratic institutions such as electoral commissions, the judiciary and the legislature stand compromised as their functions are interfered with by those in leadership. Forces such as nationalism and racism, negative ethnicity and politics of exclusion are on the rise.

Leadership challenges: John Maxwell observes that everything rises and falls with leadership. It has become apparent to many that we are living at a time and age where morals/ethics that govern leadership are quickly falling below the standard. South Korean citizens have just come through the candle light change of leadership due to the levels of corruption exercised as well as poor performance by the executive. There is a contestation of the tenure of service by presidents, as efforts are made to change the constitution to allow for limitless terms of service. Leadership styles are exclusionist leaving many out of processes of decision making and determination of their destiny.

Commemoration of 500 years Reformation: Many of us have participated in one way or another in events commemorating the Reformation. I had the opportunity to visit with EWHA Woman University in South Korea and share about Reformation and Women. Clearly reformation is not an event, it is all embracing and an on-going process. We probably have not paid sufficient attention on the contribution of women in the reformation processes. A look at Katherine von Bor illustrates that she was a manager and great companion of Martin Luther. Hopefully the next phase of reformation will give more attention to the role of women in church and society.

Mandate: As we come to the end of the first term of our mandate, this executive committee needs to review its own performance. In this case, the mid-term evaluation and strategic plan renewal will provide us the opportunity to look back and assess our participation, the landmarks of our journey, deficits and how we can improve our work in the coming years. It is essential that we highlight lessons that can inform the work of the next phase.

Challenges of our journey

- Institutional/organized ecumenical movement is struggling to survive in many parts of the world;
- Presence/voice of WCC in public square. We are more than ever present in many places and our partnership with other institutions has grown. Yet we are constantly asked what is WCC doing?

As a pacesetter in the past, it would seem as if our voice and presence at the different tables is there but for some reason not audible enough. Why is that so?

- We celebrate the many member churches and over 500 million members around the world; however, what are the implications of more member churches for visible unity or unity in general?
- Decisions we take should be informed by robust and open discussions not forgetting the need for relevant and timely information.

As we celebrate 70 years, we stand on the shoulders of men and women who left a mark and whom we remember and thank God for their vision and ministries. The question that is constantly on my mind and which I have shared with some of you is: What is my legacy, what is our legacy for the next generations? As disciples of Christ let Him be, the Alpha and Omega of our work. It is my prayer that we will let the Holy Spirit to guide us and grant us wisdom and courage to make decisions that will build the ecumenical movement. Once more, thank you for your commitment and contribution. God bless you!

3.2 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The general secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, offered his report.

The quest for unity in the practice of the WCC

We are gathered here as the executive committee in Amman, hosted by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, and welcomed by the representatives of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and member churches. We thank our hosts and our executive committee member, Dr Audeh Quawas, for all that is done to prepare and facilitate this meeting for us. We are gathered here in a peaceful and hospitable setting, in a region of many conflicts and challenges. We are here to learn more about the realities of those challenges, but also to learn more about the rich traditions, the Christian presence and witness here, and the initiatives to live together in justice and peace for all. We are grateful for the opportunity to encounter our member churches here, and with other representatives of the Christian communities, particularly the Palestinian community.

1. The Strategic Objectives of the WCC and the quest for unity as our basic call

As we move towards the mid-term of the WCC's life between the 10th and the 11th assemblies, and the end of the first executive committee serving in this period, it is my privilege to express a word of sincere thanks to the executive committee and all its members; those who come to an end of their service here and those who continue for another period. I do this as we are evaluating the first period and looking to the next. I would particularly like to thank you for a very constructive cooperation in making the WCC operational, integrated, and strategic in its work hinging on its basic goal of calling the churches to unity in witness and service in the world.

This period has been challenging for our agenda as we live in a world where the dividing and fragmenting powers are very strong, but also in a time when the willingness to make the Christian unity a sign of another agenda for justice and peace. The approach we have as WCC to be together on a Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace has proved its relevance. It is very important that we see both the big picture and the more specific issues of our plans, budgets and reports when we do our midterm-evaluation process. As we prepare for the 70th anniversary we are in a modus of thanksgiving and proving how this body is alive, moving and taking new initiatives for the sake of the unity of Christians and the churches in the world.

In my report to the executive committee in June this year I argued for the need of and the proper time for a new quest for unity. I was genuinely inspired by the response you gave – and to how this theme has been received in different contexts of our constituency and beyond that. Many others have shared their reflections with me. I find that it is important to report some of my findings and reflections of how this quest for unity is expressed in the last months' work of the WCC as I have seen it. This is some of my perspective, too.

The five strategic objectives of the WCC have proved to be inspiring and giving directions to our programmatic work and to the work we are doing in council-wide initiatives and in my work as general secretary. I also find them quite relevant for the agenda of a new quest for unity. They represent different dimensions of how the WCC works among the member churches for more visible unity in faith, life and witness, but they also open the agendas towards how we work for unity in the sense of justice and peace and improved qualities of relations and cooperation with many partners. When we share our reflections of what happened the first four years of this period under your leadership as the Executive committee, I think you all should be proud of how you have contributed to all of the five objectives through your many efforts and decisions. Let me add here that actually you are the first to try to do this system of governance and you should be proud of what you have done and continue to do as an Executive committee.

2. Unity in the one world – the visit to the Pacific

One of the great memories of my life as general secretary the last months was a two-week visit to our churches and partners in the Pacific region. In the different encounters with them, I was reminded how the WCC represents the Christian family in the whole world, and how our member churches make significant contributions to this understanding of being united as humanity, as creation and as sisters and brothers in Christ. Together with WCC president for the Pacific Rev. Dr Mele'ana Puloka and Rev. Taaroanui Maraea, member of the executive committee of the WCC from the Pacific region, as well as Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams, programme executive for mission in the WCC, I visited Tahiti, Tonga and Fiji, in addition to meetings with the Pacific church leaders one day in Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand, and another meeting in Wellington with the church leaders in Aotearoa New Zealand and political leaders there. Let me offer some examples how this visit strengthened our common sense of belonging to a worldwide fellowship sharing the challenges and the blessings of the one globe in which we live.

The Pacific churches live in the area of enormous oceans. The water is their life horizon, what unites them, and what gives life to their people and nations. Therefore, the care for the water and the oceans, and the changes that happen to them are of vital interest for them – and for the whole world.

The COP23 meeting in Bonn is being presided over by Fiji, representing the whole region. The president of Fiji, as well as the churches there and the secretariat for COP23, urged that the WCC raise our voice together with them in Bonn for a few, clear messages to the whole world: that climate change is not a future threat, it is a current threat to the livelihood of many and it disturbs the balances of the whole world by the increased temperatures in the air and the seas. As I was in Bonn, I saw it was absolutely necessary to help finance the mitigation required to prevent and repair damage, to find solutions to climate refugees that are not ready to move to other countries. The hurricanes and the extreme weather including drought, rain, and wind in many parts of the world have made many more around the world feeling themselves what the peoples from the Pacific have talked about for a while. Another important global message they want the WCC to convey is that we have to have a holistic approach to life on this planet, in the micro-level and at the macro-level. The holistic approach must include the necessary knowledge through experience and research, the economic and political capacities to make necessary changes, but also the attitudes, the spirituality, the ethos to care for and to love the whole creation. We human beings are part of the one global ecosystem and we totally dependent on how it is balanced and working. I promised that we will continue our involvement in these of the partners, COP meetings, and I was also present a few days

in Bonn, trying to convey our convictions and messages, together with colleagues, including preaching in the special COP23 Sunday worship on 12 November.

In Tonga I was reminded of how the human life in this world is ordered in days, as they experience daily the new morning grace before anybody else in the world. They represent us all in the first prayer to the triune God, the Creator, the Saviour and the Life-giver. Our spiritual fellowship is related to all dimensions of our faith in God, and I found a strong community of Christian faith, including the cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in Tonga, praying and worshiping and sharing the word of God with us. I prayed in the morning with a women's group, I met with young people who are committed to pursuing the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace among their own people in their own villages, I met with politicians and the head of state in Tonga, and others heads of state in other countries. The Methodist Church there strongly reaffirmed its membership in the WCC, and emphasized that even if they are far away from Geneva, they really want to be a committed member of this global fellowship. The visits there and to the other places had an impact on our mutual relationships in a short and a long-term perspective, I believe. We restored the sense of contact and attention and we shared ideas for the future mutual involvement.

In Mahoi Nui (French Polynesia), the synod for the Maòhi Protestant Church gave me a strong lesson of how the life as church is embedded in cultural life and expressions of joy, fellowship, shared concerns and signs of hope. They gave me a message of their suffering from the effects of the nuclear testing in their region, and how they see what happened as crimes against humanity. The nations that used their islands and waters to test their weapons, knew the high health risks involved. Now the people of Maohi Nui (French Polynesia) suffer from severe health effects. I acknowledged that they raise a genuine case for justice, which we also brought to the Commission for the Churches on International Affairs, but also raise a global issue of just peace that should include the end of all testing, proliferation, production and use of nuclear weapons.

I saw how much the cultures and spirituality of the Pacific countries and churches are significant assets to our quest for unity with one another and with the whole of God's creation. Their place in our fellowship is a gift to all of us. God offered a new opportunity for them to strengthen their regional bonds through the visit of the WCC, and they will continue that as they prepare for the assembly of Pacific Conference of Churches next year. The church leaders strongly called for their ownership of the regional body.

3. Unity and catholicity – reflecting on our joint pilgrimage 500 years after the Reformation

This year the 500 years of Reformation is commemorated in many ways, and I have been invited to several events with this agenda. I have been able to accept some of the invitations for events since we met in June – in Wittenberg, Germany (31 August and 31 October), in Hofgeismar, Germany, in Bern, Switzerland, in Minneapolis and Collegeville, MN, USA, in my home village Ås, Norway. The most significant symbolic exposure was probably the invitation from the Evangelical Church in Germany to participate in the official events in Wittenberg on the Reformation Day, 31 October. I was asked to receive in the worship in the Schlosskirche on behalf of the WCC a copy of the 95 theses as a sign of the contribution of the churches of Reformation to the whole oikoumene. Other colleagues have contributed significantly to such events as well. This is also something on which the executive committee will report. I have also reflected on the challenges and the inspiration coming from an ecumenical marking of these events in speeches and publications; some of them are also shared on our web site.

There is a potential in all these events for reconciliation and reorientation, for reflection on what kind of reformation the churches need and should contribute to in our time. The ecumenical eucharist service based on the so-called "Lima liturgy" in Wittenberg in August, with co-celebrants from many church traditions that have declared they are in communion with one another, was a very significant moment of thanksgiving for me as general secretary of the WCC. Many of them can share

the eucharist partly due to the reception and use of the Faith and Order document from Lima 1982 on Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry. There were other churches represented and participating in the prayers, the Roman Catholic Church and the Coptic Orthodox Church, reminding us about the ecumenical relations and commitment but not yet a full communion among us. The divisions that became the (some of them unintended) effects of the call for Reformation of the practices of the Roman Catholic Church in the 16th century, are one of the reasons why the quest for unity among us needs more focus, more energy and new input.

On the other hand, the many joint events show that we are in a very different place than centuries ago and also since 1948, due to the ecumenical movement and its dialogues and initiatives towards common witness and service. The role of the WCC is to be both a witness to the truth of the realities and an agent of change towards more unity. The invitations we receive also show appreciation for the work of the WCC, and remind us of the significance for unity in theological dialogue as well as in actions of reconciliation and reorientation.

One very significant impulse from many of these events, namely the willingness to call for repentance, transformation and common service in the world, was a topic in the conversation the moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom, and myself had with Pope Francis in Rome on 24 August. We share a common vision for how we can work for unity today in practice, working, walking and praying together (as Pope Francis emphasized, and which is the title of the 2016 WCC annual report). The same was expressed as we reflected together on how God calls us all to a pilgrimage of justice and peace and to serve the world and our fellow human beings together as much as we can. The needs of the world are not waiting for us to solve all the issues of division between us. The Pope affirmed his support and agenda to work with the WCC, and reflected on how this could be expressed in the year of our 70th anniversary.

In the same conversations we had the opportunity to share our joint commitment to peace in the world, and how we can do so together as global fellowships of local churches. We discussed particularly the situation in South Sudan and in the Korean Peninsula.

The significant change in the ecumenical approach of the Vatican under the leadership of Pope Francis towards focus on expressions of unity on relationships, in service, prayer and mission, has opened for us another focus in the year of Reformation anniversary. It is also very significant that many of the churches of the Reformation have used this event to change their focus on confessional markings of the Protestant uniqueness as different from other church traditions towards more focus on what is in common in our faith, in our calling and in our shared challenges of today. A statement from Bishop Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, chairperson of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, and Cardinal Marx, head of the German Bishops' conference - the Catholic Bishops' Conference - is another way to emphasize that the churches must now give priority to address the divisions, the conflicts and injustices in the world instead of a priority to focus on the remaining differences among us.

I have been invited to participate in commemorations of the Reformation in many countries and continents. I.e. from Cuba and Egypt, but could not combine that with the meeting of the Executive Committee these days in November. The commemoration of the Reformation has taken a global approach, and become much more than remembering but also become opportunities for new, critical reflections about the life and the practices of the churches.

4. The potential for unity in a new reflection on Ecumenical Diakonia

This year our strategic meeting with funding partners was expanded to many other partners from all over the world into an Ecumenical Strategic Forum. The days in Geneva were very fruitful for our common understanding of ecumenical diakonia. The text has been developed under the leadership of the WCC department for Public Witness and Diakonia as a follow up of the so-called Malawi consultation in 2014. The purpose is both to take stock of the present reflection on diakonia and to

develop a further vision for how we can contribute to that as an ecumenical movement with the different agencies. Particularly the relationships between WCC and our member churches and the ACT Alliance have been in focus on how this agenda is shared in our different roles and capacities.

The participants, including several members of the executive committee, concluded that this was a significant step forward towards more joint agenda and commitment, and a stronger shared identity representing the churches and their call to diakonia in these issues. I also gave my reflection on this event from the perspective of unity, discussing how the study on diakonia as both faith-based and rights-based approach to the needs of people of today, and as a genuine ministry of the church that we are called to do together. My text (9.5 Theses for a new quest for unity and peace through Ecumenical Diakonia) is available on the WCC web-site (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/9-5-theses-for-a-new-quest-for- unity-and-peace-through-ecumenical-diakonia/)

The agencies with which we are working were not all represented with their highest officers - which I think we should make sure they are next time. But still the participation from the Lutheran World Federation, ACT Alliance and the regional and some national ecumenical councils was very good, and brought the conversation to a level we needed. I see this as a sign of hope for improving how ACT Alliance, the WCC and our member churches can work together.

5. Unity as a key issue for the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace in Africa and for the preparations of the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Tanzania next year

The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace has had a focus this year on Africa. This will also be reported in other ways to the executive committee. I will in this context focus on how the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace relating to Africa also has brought substantial contributions to how the WCC also contributes to unity among the churches and in and among the people of Africa.

In visits to Nigeria, both the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace reference group and the women team of living letters have brought clear messages of the global solidarity with the people and the churches in Nigeria facing violence and particular violence against women and children, to some extent religiously-based violence. This is what we address through the Muslim-Christian peace centre in Kaduna. But it also needs further involvement among the churches themselves. The churches in Nigeria have a great calling to contribute to the just peace of this huge country, and the pilgrimage approach is a way to find new alliances against violence.

The focus on the unity of the churches is strongly emphasized in the WCC contributions to peace initiatives in Burundi and South Sudan. The need for the churches to stand together, as national councils of churches and beyond, particularly also together with the Roman Catholic Church, is key to counteract political and ethnic divisions that lead to violence, war or risks thereof.

Let me once again mention we have seen now also the significant initiatives by the National Council of Churches in Zimbabwe for national unity, for initiatives for peace and for the future of the nation.

As the leadership of the central committee (LCC) met in Nairobi, we witnessed how the churches, the national council of churches and leading personalities (including our moderator, Dr Abuom) have taken initiatives for national reconciliation in times of great risks for division and even violence in the country. The call to unity for the nations is much stronger when the churches also find their own credible expressions of unity. The meeting with the heads of our member churches in Kenya became a moment of sharing of the current crisis there, and for recommitment to the ecumenical task. The visit to the school of the Orthodox mission there will result in contributions to our Christmas greetings this year. To see the comprehensive work of the mission of the Orthodox church in Kenya, under the leadership of our brother Archbishop Makarios, was an inspiration to all of us.

We see how the common mission can be developed in different church traditions. This is particularly important also as we are now planning for a Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Africa (Arusha, Tanzania) in March next year. This will be a milestone in the work for mission, but it should also be a milestone in our quest for unity in serving as the disciples of Jesus Christ in this world. It is a World Council of Churches event, organized by the CWME and our busy WCC staff. The preparations for such an event are demanding, and I have taken the initiative to make sure that we have good teamwork in the whole organization to support this event. You have more of a chance to discuss the progress of the work with the director the commission and his colleagues.

The African dimension of this event should be inspiring and mobilizing to the many contributions we have from the African churches to the global mission of the church. This in itself is important for new expressions of unity as mutual accountable relations, sharing the Gospel and the fruits of the Gospel in all continents and between all continents. The countries in the northern hemisphere have much to learn and to receive from the churches in Africa in their holistic practice of mission as diakonia, advocacy for justice and peace, and in preaching, teaching and worshipping the triune God. We will be updated and make important decisions for the WCC about this event in this meeting.

I would also like to mention that I was pleased to attend the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), held in connection with the Asia Mission Conference in Yangon, Myanmar on 15 October. Hundreds of delegates from churches and their partners from all over the world were gathered.

In my speech there, I emphasized that we have to work for unity and we have to work for mission, and we have to show that they belong together in practice. Healthy challenges and shared wisdom will become part of our mission as churches when we are together in mission. The meeting was a very fruitful meeting and a good sign of the vitality of the vision of the Asian church leaders 60 years ago, merging the organizations for mission and for church unity in Asia.

6. Unity in solidarity and compassion for just peace in the Middle East

As we are gathered here in Amman, we have a unique opportunity to reflect on the situation of the churches and the peoples in this region. We are aware of the many challenges and conflicts that the peoples in this region have been dealing with, since the first year of the WCC till today, but also particularly in these last years.

We have learned about the sufferings of people of all communities in this region, particularly in the war in Syria - which is going on now in its sixth year - but also in the atrocities and fighting in Iraq. We had new engagements in visiting Iraq, where we were receiving information about Christian communities and other religious groups that are now seeing possibilities after the military siege over the extremist so-called Islamic State. People are still very vulnerable, and the international community must support the efforts to facilitate that these communities can feel secure enough so that people can return home.

The situation for the Christian communities calls upon our attention in a special way and we are here also to show our unity and solidarity with the suffering Christian sisters and brothers. The persecution and the martyrdom of Christians, as we have seen them and heard about them in this part of the world, is a witness to Christ that unites us in a very special way in our time.

We are here also to celebrate and pray with one another that the Christian witness here has a lot of credibility and is recognized as an absolutely necessary part of the region. Christians are here from the first years and centuries of Christianity, as these regions belong to the Biblical lands and the early church which we also saw yesterday in Petra. We will see examples of this during our stay here, and we are reminded of the roots that unite us all. Also how the Abrahamic heritage is binding all the Abrahamic religions to these lands and to a common heritage that we should honour and use for the justice and peace we all seek.

The WCC has also paid particular attention to the situation in Israel and Palestine, and the injustices, conflicts and occupation that still are obstacles to a just peace for both the Palestinians and the Israelis. The call to just peace is as urgent and significant as before, if not even more. The situation is deteriorating for the Palestinian people under more than 50 years of occupation, and the marking of that fact has called upon a new need to reflect on our contribution to a just peace. We will have the opportunity to talk more and in depth on these issues, and some representatives of the Palestinian churches and Christians will also join us for that purpose. We have received a letter of urgency from Palestinian Christians, and we have for this meeting prepared an upgraded plan for our work as a response to their letter. The situation is urgent, and we need to strengthen our efforts in this time. We can always do more, but we need to make sure that we do whatever we can to stay united and support one another's efforts as Christians and Churches for just peace and for a future of hope.

We should also respond to the message we receive from the heads of churches in Jerusalem about the challenges to the "status quo" and the potential for further crisis for the Christians in Jerusalem.

The exhibition we have exposed on the web and in several cities in the whole world, the "12 Faces of Hope" gives an important message. It brings voices of hope from people in this region, and it has been giving new insight to many. We cannot give up our ambition that we together can develop change and strengthen real hope.

7. Unity in the quest for a nuclear free world – a Nobel Peace Prize to the campaign supported by the WCC

The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is a sign of hope and encouragement on the path to peace. We – in the WCC – are a strong partner in the campaign and the host for their offices in Geneva. We realized they had no idea that this could happen, so we immediately supported them to organize in the Ecumenical Centre a press conference for the world media. They will officially be given the prize in Oslo on 10 December, and they have asked the World Council of Churches to be part of their official delegation to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, and I think that is an honour to all of us in the organization.

For the WCC, this is a major landmark on the long path since the 1983 WCC Assembly in Vancouver which denounced the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons as a crime against humanity. Our moral imperative against nuclear weapons is clear and categorical.

We can all urge our governments to sign and ratify the treaty and then to see that it is implemented. In the context of the world today, as in the Korean peninsula, the threat of nuclear conflict jeopardizes the lives and future not only for the people of the peninsula but of the wider region and the globe.

Therefore, the World Council of Churches reaffirms its commitment to advance the campaign for the abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons, and to encouraging and supporting churches across the world and the United Nations in their work for sustainable peace and justice in a world without nuclear weapons.

The WCC 2014 "Statement towards a Nuclear-free World" says that nuclear weapons cannot indeed be reconciled with real peace. "They inflict unspeakable suffering with blast, heat and radiation," the statement reads. "As long as nuclear weapons exist, they pose a threat to humanity."

In December, we are combining our concern for just peace on the Korean Peninsula with our commitment to a nuclear weapons free world in a campaign called "A Light for Peace." Later on you will hear more about how this campaign will mobilize the churches to pay attention to this issue.

8. Visit to united Churches in India and Germany

In the last month I have had the privilege to visit two of our member churches that have taken the call to visible unity to a very concrete expression as they are organized as united churches. The Church of North India (CNI) invited me to address their General Assembly in New Delhi in October, and the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) invited me to address their synod in Bonn last week. It is indeed an inspiration to see how these churches have developed their structures of unity for the sake of the (stronger) mission of the Church, and how they both are committed to contribute to the wider, global ecumenical movement.

9. Words of thanks

It is indeed my privilege to work with very committed colleagues in the World Council of Churches. I appreciate and sometimes also adore their hard work, i.e. as we prepare meetings like this for the executive committee. This is done in addition to their many tasks for the organization and for our fellowship.

I also want to thank the moderator and the vice-moderators of the central committee, as they work closely with me as general secretary to prepare our meetings. They also participate in many events and initiatives of the WCC, and are working hard for our common objectives. We owe them our gratitude and support.

In all we do, we give thanks to God, who has called us to this ministry. The faith we share is the faith in the crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ, who is with us in all our life experiences and who will never leave us alone. May he grant us the strength and the wisdom to represent him and his presence among others in a way that he can recognize and other can recognize as an answer to his prayer "that they all may be one" and that "the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17: 21.26).

3.3 DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

The executive committee was invited to offer comments on the report. Each speaker first expressed thanks to the general secretary for his report. Comments were received on the themes of unity, nuclear weapons, and country foci.

Unity:
Metropolitan Nifon was encouraged by the report's formulation on the quest for unity, which is a particular characteristic of the ecumenical movement. He noted that our duty is to respond to the suffering of this world and to continue work on unity as an ecumenical movement. Through the PJP, we should always pray, work, and do as many concrete things as possible to achieve that unity. Even stating that the five objectives of the WCC in the mid-term were dedicated to this particular quest of unity is important.

Bishop Samuel Azariah appreciated the mention of churches in the Pacific and other areas. Christian unity has, and continues to be, the primary foundation of the WCC. He noted that unity could be seen positively and critically as well. How are churches now practically participating in the issue of Christian unity? Are the churches really participating? How seriously are national churches taking it?

He was thankful for the words about the Christian churches and the unity of churches in southern Asia. He said the ethos of Christian unity is there intellectually, but practically it is weak. Where is the problem? As representatives of the churches this is our responsibility to reflect. Our mission as the church of Jesus has grown, but at the same time, it has grown in self-centeredness and self-sustainability. He invited us to look into our own families about how much Christian unity is practiced within the life of the WCC.

Dr Kamba Kasongo commented on the fifth point and the PJP coming to Africa, and offering a substantial contribution about the WCC's work on unity and among the people of Africa. When EDAN had a meeting in Kenya with the CWME, it was clear that there was a growing number of younger theologians, which she was happy about. She was also very happy that the CWME invited researches and junior theologians to make their contributions at that meeting.

She shared that we need to know that Africa has diversity, and we can see unity in diversity or diversity in unity. In Africa, there are three European languages: English, French, and Portuguese. In WCC publications, researchers who come from contexts other than English-speaking ones should also be considered. If we want to see unity, we need to also take account of diversity, even through language.

Rev. Dr Hutabarat-Lebang referred to point 5, about unity on the PJP. She thinks that the unity of the church is always integrated in the mission, as it is the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ, that they will be one so that the world will know who sent him. She wondered about the World Mission Conference, and how discussion about unity and mission might take place there.

Dr Abuom noted that the Director of CWME and the Moderator of CWME are at this executive committee meeting, and they will present about the World Mission Conference later in the meeting. Detailed questions about the CWME can therefore be addressed in a later session. The general secretary noted the new dimensions of the theme of CWME's World Mission Conference. They will really be reflecting on discipleship, and what transforming discipleship means. He thinks we will find new expression of the agenda.

Dr Hutabarat-Lebang also commented about the mid-term evaluation. She shared that there are efforts of the churches with regard to unity and mission in their efforts to join the PJP. A commemoration is an opportunity to strengthen the unity.

Bishop Aregawi Melese reflected that one ecumenical principle has to do with baptism, Eucharist and ministry. As in the report of the general secretary, the Roman Catholic Church reminded us of ecumenical relations, but does not have full communion among us. He asked clarification about what full communion means.

Dr Tveit first wanted to make a distinction between church unity and the full communion mutual recognition of ordained ministers. The work on mutual recognition will have an effect on the broader work Christian unity. The objective in writing this report was to say that they are working for unity, and we have to see that they are doing this in different ways. We need to acknowledge the different contributions to the visible unity of the church. He tried to use examples from recent experiences and events. He noted that it is not only for the unity of the church, but also to serve the unity of humankind and all of creation.

He reflected that the WCC can have a long-term impact on the work towards visible unity. It is our task to facilitate, to simulate, to inspire, and to promote everything that we can, to hopefully ensure and to make it possible through different examples.

Dr Abuom added her thanks for this conversation. She noted that the question of Christian unity is central for WCC. In a crowded space, we need to reflect intentionally, deliberately, and in a focussed manner. There are different strategies for undertaking unity, especially at a national and grass-roots level. This is a topic that should pre-occupy us throughout our reflections.

Nuclear weapons:
Bishop Aregawi Melese spoke about sustainable peace and justice. He noted that the eradication of nuclear weapons is the responsibility of all of humankind. For sustainable peace and justice, this is a humanitarian mission for all Christians and religions. The main problem is those who have nuclear weapons, and how to deal with those powers. Of course, he noted that the church always proclaimed

peace and the church received this message form our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As part of a proclamation of life for all human kind, we need sustainable peace and justice and also to eradicate nuclear weapons from our planet. There are those who have responsibility to protect our planet and humankind, including us. He wondered if there any negotiations with those societies and contexts.

Country foci:
Metropolitan Nifon noted that Europe is absent from the report and the list of activities. He asked the general secretary if he had an explanation for this. The general secretary noted that Dr Sauca has led several initiatives in Central and Eastern Europe. The WCC is also paying constant attention to the Ukraine, and thinking about issues such a religious freedom. There is also question about how do we bring about unity of the church in conflict times.

Dr Kamba Kasongo asked about the Congo, which has been a priority country. She noted that some things remain the same, around the accompaniment of the election. However, there is also a big gap between the leaders and the ordinary people. She wondered about how we create a bridge between church leaders and ordinary people who are in the churches. She reflected that when the ecumenical family comes to the country, they do not directly contact ordinary people. Instead, they go to the main church leaders, and this creates a gap. Bridges need to be created.

The general secretary said that WCC has had a continued commitment to work with churches in Congo, but this was also related to visible unity. The question was how to relate to leadership versus ordinary people? He shared that it is on his agenda to visit DRC and there is a critical issue on unity there. WCC has a suspended church there. They are working to find a time to meet and talk about this.

He also shared that the WCC needs to be aware of different languages for our work. One way they have been working on unity among them is how they improve on communication. He reflected that there is potential for the WCC to work for unity by strengthening communications. They have mentioned peace on the Korean peninsula, and nuclear weapons, but there are others.

The general secretary offered his thanks for comments and responses received. He also thanked the executive committee members and the moderator and vice-moderators. He was grateful for the gift of being hosted in Jordan.

4. Greetings and Exposure Visits

4.1 Ancient City of Petra

On 16 November, prior to the official start of the meeting, some members of the executive committee visited the ancient city of Petra as part of an optional exposure tour.

On the trip, the committee learned about the country of Jordan and its place in the Middle East as well as the history of the city of Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO heritage site.

4.2 Greetings by Church Leadership

On 17 November, Dr Abuom welcomed his Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem, All Palestine and Jordan. He came to welcome the executive committee to the Middle East and to Jordan specifically. Representatives from other member churches in Jordan were also present. Dr Abuom noted that it is a great privilege to be in this land. She thanked all of the leaders for the churches in this region for being present. She asked Patriarch Theophilos to welcome the executive committee, before the committee officially begins its deliberations for this meeting.

His Beatitude Patriarch Theophilos III offered his address, sharing the following.

General secretary, respected members of the executive committee, dear sisters and brothers, we welcome you to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II, and we bring you the blessings of the holy City of Jerusalem. We are delighted to be able to host this meeting of your executive committee, and we wish to express our continued commitment to the work of the World Council of Churches.

The executive committee has come to the Middle East at a difficult time for the region. The world community is united in the view that a vital, vibrant Christian community is an essential part of the multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious landscape of the Middle East. We are indigenous to this region, and indeed the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem is the oldest continuous religious institution here.

The roots of our Christian community are deep. They have been nourished by the blood of prophets, saints, and martyrs down the ages, and by the redeeming blood of our Lord Jesus Christ himself. In our day, our Christian community is facing unprecedented and serious threats.

While we understand that you have an agenda you need to attend to, please allow us to bring to your attention some details of the present situation of undermining of the "status quo": those sets of customs and rules that guarantees the Christian presence specifically in Jerusalem of which it is urgent and of which you are aware. We have been making this very same case to religious and governmental leaders around the world and now wish to bring this matter to our World Council of Churches through you.

As you know, for generations the sacred character of the Holy Land has been protected by the status quo, which is recognized by both religious and civil authorities and the international community as protecting and guaranteeing the rights and privileges of the churches, especially with respect to the holy sites and to other religious activity. The provisions of the status quo have been upheld carefully by successive civil authorities in our region.

Over the last several months, we have seen a new level of threat to the stability of our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, and multi-religious society in a number of attacks on religious community, and especially on Christian communities.

There has been a marked and disturbing increase in so-called "price tag hate crimes", which are directed in many cases to the vandalism and desecration of holy places and cemeteries. While these acts have been condemned by all, including governments, they continue and effective ways of preventing them and punishing the perpetrators are still to be found.

More threatening to the rights of religious communities is a proposed bill that is circulating in the Knesset that would, if passed, severely intrude on the rights of the churches over their properties. Whether this bill has a chance of being passed is not the point: the mere fact that it has gained the signatures of one-third of members of the Knesset and should be discussed at all is a new level of threat to the diversity of our society and the manner in which holy places have been managed and cared for, especially in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Most significant and worrying, however, are the underhanded actions of radical settler groups who in the majority of cases acquire property in Jerusalem's Old City and elsewhere utilising illegitimate methods of coercion that lack property authority. The most recent issue concerns the properties owned by the Patriarchate and known as the "Jaffa Gate" case, in which a radical settler group that has for many years been attempting to take over properties in the Christian Quarter of the Old City and thereby diminish the Christian presence in Jerusalem was given the properties. They have claimed to have acquired these properties through what we consider "illegitimate agreements that lack due

authority". Crucially negative was the fact that the District Court handed down a wrongful judgment in favour of the settler group. This judgment was in our view incorrect with respect to matters of the law and we are contesting it in the High Court, and bringing the matter to the international community for awareness and support.

It is the firm position of the heads of the churches in Jerusalem that the movement of these radical settler groups must be curbed and controlled and their intimidating tactics to exclude non-Jews from Jerusalem must be resisted to preserve the defining multi-faith tapestry of the Old City.

A member of religious leaders, including His All Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch, His Holiness the Pope, and His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, have issued important statements in support of the Christian community, the heads of churches of the Holy Land, and the Patriarchate. It is important to emphasise to this executive committee that we enjoy a deep and complete unity of understanding and purpose among all the heads of the churches, and this has been a tremendous encouragement to all of us, and of course, is one of the great fruits in our region of our on-going ecumenical endeavour. For this unity of understanding and purpose, we give thanks to God.

We hope very much that our World Council of Churches will continue in its mission in the Middle East to secure the position of the Christian community against these new threats to our existence and freedom. We are deeply thankful for all the support that the World Council of Churches has always shown to the Christian community of the Holy Land and the Middle East, and we look forward to being able to join forces with you in order to increase advocacy for the common benefit of all our peoples and in deepening the peaceful co-existence between Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

We pray that God will bless your deliberations in this meeting, and we assure you of our prayers and support. We take this opportunity to thank His Majesty, under whose rule the people of the Hashemite Kingdom enjoy religious freedom, tolerance, and co-existence.

Thank you and wish you the best for your meeting.

Dr Abuom, on behalf of the executive committee, thanked His Beatitude for his warm hospitality and welcome. She thanked him for sharing his concerns and noted that during this meeting, and even before this meeting, the WCC has Palestine and Israel as a focus of the work. She also wanted to take the opportunity to thank Dr Quawas and his team for making this meeting come into reality. She noted that as an executive committee they look forward to a fruitful interaction and fellowship during their stay. She noted that for many this is the first time they are coming to Amman and they look forward to fellowship and witness with the church. This is the eighth executive committee meeting since the last assembly. They want to give God the glory for protection and safe travels as they work to fulfil their mandate since the WCC last assembly.

The general secretariat has worked to have at least one meeting in a region by accepting an invitation by member churches to host the committee. This is one such meeting. People who arrived early took part in a pilgrimage to Petra. This is a region where they come to celebrate not only the beginnings of faith, but also to journey as they pilgrimage with hope and strength to bring hope to those who are desperate and in a hopeless state. Thank you once again.

4.3 Dinner at the Invitation of and with H.B. Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem and All Palestine Theophilos III

On 17 November, the executive committee had dinner at a nearby restaurant in the Fairmont Hotel in Amman at the invitation of, and with H.B. Theophilos III, Patriarch of the Holy City of Jerusalem, All Palestine and Jordan. The other church leaders present for dinner were H.E. Metropolitan Venedictos of Philadelphia and H.E. Archbishop Aristarchos of Constantina.

After dinner, the general secretary presented the Patriarch with a token of appreciation. His Beatitude expressed his thanks for the gift, an icon from Bulgaria, thanks to the executive committee for sharing the meal, and thanks to the WCC for their work and support of the region.

4.4 Visits to Biblical Sites

On 19 November, the executive committee was given a guided tour and visited several biblical sites. Jordan is considered part of the Holy Land as there are several Christian pilgrim sites in the country. On this day, the executive committee explored the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist; Mount Nebo, where God showed Moses the Promised Land; St George's Orthodox Cathedral in Madaba, which has the world's oldest mosaic map of the Holy Land; and the shores of the Dead Sea; which is mentioned several times in the Bible.

4.5 Azmi Al Mufti Refugee Camp

On 22 November, the executive committee visited a well-known Palestinian refugee camp in Jordan: Azmi Al Mufti Refugee Camp, also known as Husn Camp. Set up originally as an "emergency camp", it has existed since 1968 for 12,500 Palestinian refugees and displaced people who fled because of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. This visit assisted the executive committee to see in a more practical way the implications of the situation and the WCC's involvement in Palestine and Israel.

4.6 Ancient City of Jerash

On 22 November, the executive committee visited the ancient city of Jerash. The Greeks started to settle there around 333 BC. They established cities in Jordan, such as Jerash. The Romans later conquered and extended, and changed some parts of the city.

4.7 Visit to with His Majesty King Abdullah II

On 22 November, the leadership of the central committee, along with Dr Audeh Quawas, visited His Majesty King Abdullah II. The king received them in his courts. Dr Tveit reported that the king wanted to know what the executive committee had been talking about, and was particularly interested in discussions about religion and violence. The king shared that he was glad that the executive committee was in Jordan. The king supports churches in the region and in Israel/Palestine. The leadership expressed desire of the WCC to continue to work towards justice in Palestine and Israel.

5. Finances

5.1 First Presentation on Finances

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson moderated a hearing session. Bishop Swenson offered a prayer to open the session.

5.1.1 Financial Overview

Bishop Swenson invited the finance staff to share updates about the budget and the audit. Ms Elaine Dykes, Director of Finance, presented the financial overview.

Forecast 2017 compared to budget

A balanced budget 2017 was approved, with an overall drawdown of funds of CHF 0.4 million, related principally to the building project fund. Compared to budget:

- Forecast income decrease by CHF 0.6 million (2%) to CHF 25.2 million
- Forecast expenditure decrease by CHF 0.2 million to CHF 25.9 million
- Infrastructure charges to programme: forecast CHF 0.3 million less
- Unrestricted funds forecast to draw CHF 0.2 million on general reserves; and restricted funds forecast net decrease in funds of CHF 0.2 million
- General reserves forecast to close at CHF 6.9 million, after distribution to assembly fund, and to programme fund for central committee, subject to approval by executive committee

Forecast compared to Budget 2017

CHF 000	**Unrestricted & Designated Fund**		**Restricted Fund**		**Total**	
	Budget 2017	*Forecast*	**Budget 2017**	*Forecast*	Budget2017	*Forecast*
Income						
Membership & UDI	3,914	*3,901*	-	-	3,914	*3,901*
Programme contributions	-	-	14,449	*13,866*	14,449	*13,866*
Investment and currency	15	*69*	342	*360*	357	*429*
Rentals, sales & misc income	6,716	6,624	316	*336*	7,032	*6,960*
Distribution of unrestricted inc	(3,912)	*(3,901)*	3,912	*3,901*	-	-
Total Income	**6,733**	***6,693***	**19,019**	***18,463***	**25,752**	***25,156***
Expenditure						
Staff costs	4,391	*4,273*	8,086	*7,930*	12,477	*12,203*
Direct costs	6,000	*5,940*	7,658	*7,782*	13,658	*13,722*
Total costs before redistribution & trfs	10,391	*10,213*	15,744	*15,712*	26,135	*25,925*
Transfers	-	-	-	24	-	24
Redistributed infrastructure costs	(2,652)	*(2,326)*	2 ,652	*2,326*	-	-
Internal sales Bossey	(609)	*(599)*	609	*599*		
Total costs after redistribution	**7,130**	***7,288***	**19,005**	***18,661***	**26,135**	***25,949***
Surplus / (deficit)	**(397)**	***(595)***	**14**	***(198)***	**(383)**	***(793)***
Opening balance	(3,452)	*(3,381)*	14,582	*14,883*	11,130	*11,502*
Closing balance	**(3,849)**	***(3,976)***	**14,596**	***14,685***	**10,747**	***10,709***

Results to September 2017 compared to forecast

- Overall result at 30 September is decrease in funds CHF 0.2 million (full year forecast: decrease CHF 0.8 million)
- Programme contributions at 67% of year's forecast (30.9.16: 75%)
- Programme implementation costs at 63% of forecast (30.9.16: 63%)
- Bossey guest house sales in September 7% higher than same month prior year; net results to date at deficit CHF 15,000 (30.9.16 deficit CHF 28,000; 30.9.15 surplus CHF 170,000)
- Foreign currency gains reported at CHF 0.1 million; and good investment returns

Results September 2017 compared with forecast

CHF 000	Unrestricted & Designated Fund		Restricted Fund		Total	
	Sept 2017	*Forecast*	**Sept 2017**	*Forecast*	**Sept 2017**	*Forecast*
Income						
Membership & UDI	3,326	*3,901*	-	-	3,326	*3,901*
Programme contributions	-	-	9,290	*13,866*	9,290	*13,866*
Investment and currency	126	*69*	301	*360*	427	*429*
Rentals, sales & misc income	5,182	6,624	238	*336*	5,420	*6,960*
Distribution of unrestricted inc	(2,965)	*(3,901)*	2,965	*3,901*	-	-
Total Income	**5,669**	***6,693***	**12,794**	***18,463***	**18,463**	***25,156***
Expenditure						
Staff costs	3,280	*4,273*	6,015	*7,930*	9,295	*12,203*
Direct costs	4,436	*5,940*	4,881	*7,782*	9,317	*13,722*
Total costs before redistribution & trfs	7,716	*10,213*	10,896	*15,712*	18,612	*25,925*
Transfers	(2)	-	24	24	22	24
Redistributed infrastructure costs	(1,744)	*(2,326)*	1,744	*2,326*	-	-
Internal sales Bossey	(405)	*(599)*	405	*599*		
Total costs after redistribution	**5,565**	***7,288***	**13,069**	***18,661***	**18,634**	***25,949***
Surplus / (deficit)	**104**	***(595)***	**(275)**	***(198)***	**(171)**	***(793)***
Opening balance	(3,381)	*(3,381)*	14,883	*14,883*	11,502	*11,502*
Closing balance	**(3,277)**	***(3,976)***	**14,608**	***14,685***	**11,331**	***10,709***

Balance sheet, 30 September 2017

- Insurance value of WCC's buildings is about CHF 106 million, while net book value is reflected at CHF 38 million; CHF 68 million value is undisclosed
- High level of liquidity; programme funds, designated funds and general reserves are backed by bond fund and cash at bank
- Loans CHF 46.6 million (31.12.16: CHF 46.9 million)

Balance sheet, 30 September 2017

Assets	CHF 000s	Related Obligation	CHF 000s	Net assets/ (obligations)
Land & buildings	37,707	Mortgage loans & long term deferred income	49,365	(11,658)
Non-current asset investments	10,819	Endowment Funds	9,400	1,419
Current asset investments & cash	12,684	Programme Funds	3,808	8,876
Other current assets	1,818	Current liabilities	1,960	(142)
	-	Long-term	372	(372)

		provisions		
Total (obligations)/assets available after deducting obligations				**(1,877)**

Covering reserves composed as follows:		
Restricted fund for fixed assets	1,592	
Designated fund for fixed assets	11,329	(10,827)
Deficit fund to be covered by development project	(23,748)	
Designated programme fund	1,444	
	283	8,950
General reserve	7,223	**(1,877)**

5.1.2 DRAFT BUDGET 2018

Mr Mark Johnson, Finance Manager, presented the draft budget for 2018.

Draft Budget 2018

- Programme expenditure includes Conference on World Mission and Evangelism CHF 2.1 m 2017-2018; GETI CHF 0.4 m 2018; central committee CHF 0.6 m 2018;
- Programme funds draw-down CHF 2.3 m to record low of CHF 1.02 m;
- Programme funds: overall balanced result with no call on general reserves
- Bossey conference centre net deficit CHF 48,000 (forecast 2017: deficit CHF 67,000; 2016: deficit CHF 121,000);

Building project expenditure CHF 0.3 m includes relocation project for Ecumenical Centre archives; interest CHF 0.3 m. Fund balance CHF 0.7 m 31.12.18; Infrastructure charge to programmes 12.6% of programme income (forecast 2017: 12.7%; planning target: 15%)

Forecast 2017
Draft Budget 2018

	Forecast 2017	**Budget 2018**	**Programme Funds Forecast 2017**	**Programme Funds Budget 2018**
In CHF millions		*draft*		*draft*
Funds & Reserves brought forward	**11.50**	**11.26**	**3.29**	**3.30**
Income				
Membership & unrestricted /(or allocation)	3.90	3.97	3.90	3.95
Programme contributions	13.86	14.12	13.81	14.07
Other Income	7.39	7.71	0.65	0.90
Total Income	**25.15**	**25.80**	**18.36**	**18.92**

Expenditure				
Programme costs	13.49	13.58	10.44	10.43
Mission conference, GETI, central committee	0.23	2.85	0.23	2.85
Staff costs	12.20	12.44	7.93	7.97
Total Expenditure	**25.92**	**28.87**	**18.60**	**21.25**
Transfers	(0.02)	-	(0.05)	0.05
Net Income / Expenditure after transfers	**(0.79)**	**(3.07)**	**(0.29)**	**(2.28)**
Inc/(decr) Restricted Funds	(0.19)	(2.37)	(0.29)	(2.28)
Inc/(decr) Unrestricted & Designated Funds	(0.60)	(0.70)	-	-
Funds & Reserves carried forward	**10.71**	**8.19**	**3.00**	**1.02**
Transfer general reserves for c com 2018			*0.30*	
Staffing (FTE)	102.5	104.4	61.0	62.0

5.1.3 INCOME DEVELOPMENT

Mr Douglas L. Chial, Income Monitoring and Development and PMER Manager, reported on income development.

Update on income development 2017

- Programme contributions 2017 – CHF 13.866 million
  - Ecumenical HIV response – UNAIDS and PEPFAR – 0.4 million CHF
  - Syria – GIZ, Swiss MFA, HEKS – 0.6 million CHF
  - Mission Conference and GETI – 1.1 million CHF
- Member church contributions 2017 – CHF 3.901 million
  - 157 of 348 member churches (45%)
  - 3.4 million CHF (89%).
  - 6 churches that did not contribute since 2012 or 2013
- Ecumenical Strategic Forum – strengthened relations
  - Between the WCC and its funding partners
  - Between ACT Alliance and ecumenical partners
  - Between churches, councils, communions and agencies

Update on income development 2018

- Programme contributions 2018 – CHF 14.125 million
  - Seeking funds for Iraq – EU, USAID, Norwegian MFA
  - Seeking funds for EHAIA – partners, CWM, secular sources
  - Renewing contracts for EDAN, EHAIA, EAA, Syria, Unicef, UNAIDS
- Member church contributions 2018 – CHF 3.964 million
  - Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace – Caribbean and Latin America
  - Assembly effect – increasing number contributing churches

Fundraising campaigns – Assembly and Ecumenical Centre Renewal

- Prepared in 2018 for launch in 2019

Fundraising strategy 2018-2021

- Maintain membership contributions – CHF 4.0 million
    - 2% annual increase
    - Growing number of churches contributing
- Maintain programme contributions – between CHF 13.5 and CHF 14.5 million
    - Analyse of contributions by type and source – not all income is the same
    - Evidenced-based strategies for programme income development

Assembly 2021 fundraising – CHF 4.0 million

- Annual member church contribution over three years
- Funding partner support for assembly programme

- Renewal of the Ecumenical Centre – Target to be developed
- Positioning WCC for new income in a changing landscape
    - From multilateral funding to bilateral funding
    - Cooperation with partners on common interests

Fellowship and strategic role of the WCC – convening and inviting

- Faith based approach – churches as agents of change and transformation
- Cooperative programming and fundraising
- Funding from government and intergovernmental sources

Need to strengthening activity-based funding

- Priority country, interfaith approach, peace building and social cohesion
- Addressing sustainable development

Thanks were offered for these presentations.

5.1.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE

Dr Quawas read the report of the audit committee. This report covers the work of the audit committee since its last report to executive committee in June 2017. The committee met on 8 November 2017 to discuss the audit plan for the financial year 2017 with the auditors, and to review the current financial situation with staff.

I. Audit matters

(i) Audit plan 2017

The auditor confirmed that the interim audit will take place in early December and the final audit in March 2018, in order that the Financial Report 2017 may be issued by the end of April 2018. Among the selected areas for review are contributions management, the Ecumenical Institute finance processes and facility management, and the processes of closing the financial accounts. The audit fee is to be maintained at CHF 77,000, in accordance with the terms agreed in 2014, and which remain effective, in principle, for the financial years 2014-2018.

(ii) Special project audits

Seven project financial audits are to be mandated by WCC for 2017, in accordance with funding agreement conditions (2016: ten project financial audits). The committee received a report setting out the profile of the mandates for 2017. The committee questioned the level of fees applying, and it was confirmed that the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) annual fees range from CHF 1,500 to CHF 4,800 for special project audits, in accordance with the terms offered in 2014. The committee requested that the fees quoted be included on the schedule of special project audits when next reviewed.

In addition, to the seven project financial audits mentioned above, to be mandated by WCC, three project audits are mandated in 2017 directly by funding partners (2016: two project audits mandated directly by funding partners).

Of the latter, one has already been conducted in October 2017, as mandated by Bread for the World. The committee received the preliminary report of an assessment of the WCC's financial management capacities in relation to the diakonia scholarships project, financed by German federal funds. The preliminary report concluded that "WCC has implemented sound processes and procedures to ensure compliance with the rules and standards of BftW".

II. Points related to the building project

(i) Review of archives in relation to donated land and buildings to identify any conditions relevant to the Green Village building project

As requested by the audit committee, finance archive records had been reviewed, and an inspection of the land registry had been conducted by the WCC legal counsel, to determine if there were any documented restrictions related to donated land and buildings. Documents shared with the audit committee, from the WCC Property Fund archives from the 1960s ("the Frank Northam papers") included minutes of a Geneva Town Council meeting from 1964 explaining the exchange of the Malagnou plot for the Grand-Saconnex plot, and referred to donations of CHF 11 million from 201 member churches in 80 countries, for the construction of the Ecumenical Centre. A signed statement of the Properties Fund from 1967 referred to CHF 12 million contributions received from member churches, ecumenical partners and public authorities. No reference to restrictions was found.

The land registry extract described the plot 1270, with 33,995 m^2 of land. The review of the extract confirmed that there were no annotations concerning restrictions which could have impact on the Green Village project.

(ii) Building project and depreciation

The audit committee discussed with the auditors a document outlining the method and approach proposed for depreciation of the library, archives and wings of the Ecumenical Centre, which are scheduled for demolition between 2019 and 2023. While confirming the general method proposed, the auditors emphasised that different approaches could be adopted in the interest of reasonableness, including taking into account an assessment of the current value of the main building. The auditors recommended that further work be conducted, for review during the interim audit in December 2017, and for application from 2018.

The audit committee highlights the issue for the attention of the finance sub-committee, with reference to budget 2018.

III. Offices outside Switzerland

The audit committee received a report on compliance with the *Policy for Offices outside Switzerland*. It was noted that progress had been made to ensure compliance with local labour laws in Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Togo; however, there were particular challenges related to achieving compliance in Angola and Zimbabwe. The audit committee requested that efforts be continued, and that progress be shared at the next meeting.

Concerning the requirement to document or improve the quality of certain service agreements, Dr Audeh Quawas confirmed that he would support efforts to document terms as required with the Near East Council of Churches - International Christian Committee.

IV. Membership of the audit committee

(i) Members representing executive committee

The audit committee noted that an appointment to the audit committee of one executive committee member would be required with effect from 1 January 2018, given that Dr Audeh Quawas would step down from executive committee at that date. The audit committee also requested that it be confirmed whether the appointment of Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber is confirmed for the period 2018-2021.

The audit committee highlights the issue for the attention of the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

(ii) Professional members

The audit committee encourages the general secretary to seek a suitable proposal for a third professional member for the audit committee for 2018.

V. Other matters

(i) Fraud risks and controls

The committee received the annual review of fraud risk prepared by the staff as required by its terms of reference. The staff confirmed that there were no instances of fraud or suspected fraud to be reported.

The audit committee noted that the report highlighted two transaction types with a "high risk" rating for fraud, and requested that further reflection be given to extending controls and procedures in these cases to a level where a "medium risk" rating might be assigned.

(ii) Provision for untaken vacation

Further to its request for follow up on this matter, the audit committee was informed that the number of vacation days currently reported as untaken and unplanned suggest that the provision may be retained at about the same level as prior year, being CHF 372,000, representing about six days untaken leave on average.

The audit committee noted that if the policy of carrying forward five days untaken vacation days as a maximum were applied, then the provision might be reduced by CHF 55,000.

The audit committee encouraged the responsible staff to ensure that effective planning procedures are implemented when the new Staff Regulations are in effect, to ensure that staff take vacation, firstly in the interest of good health, and secondly, in order that provisions may be reduced.

(iii) Documentation

It was requested that documentation for the audit committee's work be received one week in advance, where possible.

5.1.5 DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PRESENTATIONS ON FINANCE

Bishop Swenson invited the executive committee to discuss the reports presented so far.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber noted she would need to resign from the audit committee as the timing of the meetings has been a challenge for her schedule. The audit committee will therefore need to appoint two new people. She suggested Metropolitan Nifon as one possibility for the committee.

Metropolitan Nifon asked about multi-lateral funding and what the advantage is to change from multi-lateral to bi-lateral funding. Mr Chial responded that there is a general global trend to move from multi-lateral to bi-lateral funding. As an example, earlier funding might come to the WCC for a general theme such as peace-building. Now, however, funding might be offered for something more specific. This is a shift that is specific to development or diakonia work, and would not affect funding for areas such as theology.

The general secretary shared that there is an increasing interest in supporting what the WCC is doing, both from organizations such as the UN and from governments. He recently received a call from the UN environmental programme. This branch of the UN has been working for months on a meeting

with the WCC general secretary so they could work better with the WCC. It is the same dynamic with UNICEF. But, he added, building such partnerships requires visibility of what we are doing. This is a matter of communication, as well as working with partners. It also means that we would need people who work on environmental issues who will be able to work with UN environment programme on those kinds of issues.

Ms Pirri-Simonian said that it had always been difficult for member churches to pay higher amounts. If there are basic programmes of the WCC that depend only on membership contributions, and considering the proportion of money coming from other sources, such as governments that fund more development-oriented projects, how will we find adequate support for the core programmes funded only by churches?

Dr Tveit affirmed that membership contributions levels are stable and substantial. This is not in danger. In addition, there are unrestricted incomes which are not earmarked, which go into the general budget. This covers areas such as Faith and Order, the general secretariat, and others. Ms Dykes added that there are partners who give in the multi-lateral spirit and who have institutional confidence in the entire programmes. For example, the contributions from the Church of Sweden can be given towards Faith and Order. For the UN environment work, however, this environmental work will be done uniquely with the money earmarked for that purpose.

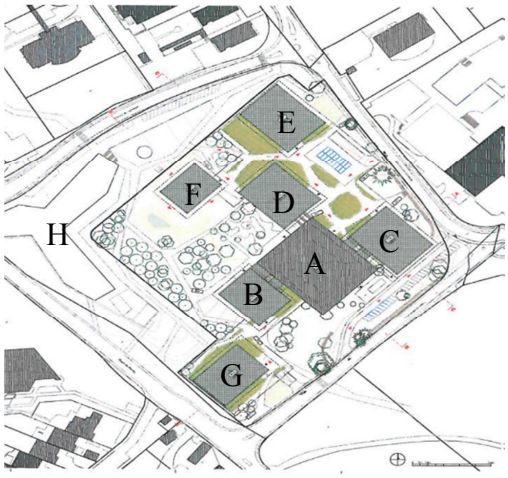
The general secretary noted that this raises an important question about membership contributions. Most funds are restricted for particular programmes or projects. Member churches must take the responsibility for funding the WCC; this is vital to the future of the council.

Bishop Swenson offered her thanks for these presentations and for the questions.

5.1.6 REPORT OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ms Dykes presented an overview of the Green Village project. She also offered additional material from the development partner and architects for members upon request

Green Village



		m2
A	Office and chapel	4,245
B	Ecumenical Centre offices and rental	7,935
C	Offices	12,640
D	Offices and commercial area	9,040
E	Offices	13,990
F	Apartments	6,010
G	Hotel / hotel-residence	7,840
		61,700
	Car park spaces	585
H	Global Fund headquarters	25,500

For presentation

- Review of executive committee decisions and steering committee recommendations, 2017
- Timeline and preliminary plan for construction phases
- Marketing for building E
- Land sale or lease for building F

- Feasibility studies for building G, hotel
- Energy strategy
- Financial profiles

Recommendations from steering committee, March 2017

- An independent consultant be contracted to accompany further study related to the hotel development;
- Implenia be invited to proceed with the proposed strategy of seeking an early sales transaction for building E, together with its land;
- Work proceed with a master plan setting out architectural guidelines to apply for the whole Green Village site;
- Negotiations proceed as planned with the residents' association, *Radar*, with reference to the car park space numbers; and
- At its next meeting in June 2017, the recommendation to executive committee concerning the first steps in the sales strategy be developed by the steering committee.

Directions given by steering committee, September 2017

- Agreed that the reduction of the car park places be extended from 15%, as agreed earlier by the steering committee in March 2017, to 25%, in order to proceed with negotiations, and a formal agreement with the *Association Radar*. The objective remains to obtained the Area Development Plan (ADP) this year.
- Gave support to the general secretary for discussions with the Geneva heritage department on a renovation of the central building which would not only bring the chapel and main hall to excellent standards, but would also include office space for WCC and sister organisations, effectively redefining the central building as the Ecumenical Centre, within Green Village.

Timeline

Phases in the development contract

Phase 0	Project preparation	**complete**	Buildings A to G
Phase 1	Architectural competition	**complete**	Buildings A to G
Phase 2	Area Development Plan and Studies	**in progress**	Decision 31.12.17
Phase 3	Building permits (by building)	**pilot studies**	Buildings E and F
Phase 4	Confirm financial objectives	**in progress**	
Phase 5	Commercialisation	**in progress**	Buildings E, F and G
Phase 6	Construction	**2019**	Buildings E and F

Timeline : milestones from 2013 to 2017

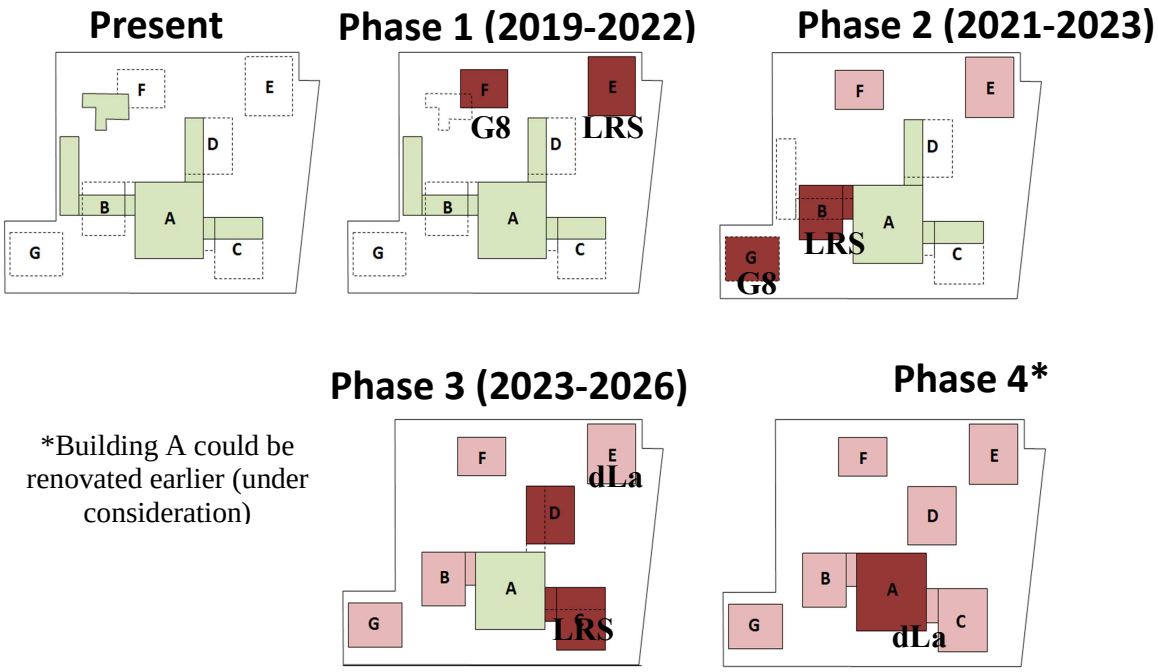
2013 – 2014
- architectural competition

2014 – 2015:
- submission of ADP
- studies: environment, energy
- technical inquiry started

2017 – 2018:
- preliminary favourable opinion from Commune (February 2017)
- Opposition Radar (June 2017)
- Signature of pre-emption agreement (June 2017)
- Heritage procedures (August 2017)

- Landscape competition (August 2017)
- Communications consultant selection (September 2017)
- Broker selection (September 2017)
- ADP in force (December 2017)

Timeline: Preliminary plan for construction phases



*Building A could be renovated earlier (under consideration)

Marketing approach

October 2017:

- Phase 1: Brokers selection
  - Partner RealEstate
  - CBRE
  - JLL
  - SPG Intercity
- Phase 1: Communication consultant selection
  - Enigma
  - Metadesign
  - Saentys

November 2017:

- Brokers selection
- Selection communication consultant
- Finalise contracts

December 2017:

- Brainstorming and prospect strategy with broker
- Mailing to international organisations identified
- Cold calling
- Set up of first marketing tools
- Set up media plan

February 2018:

- Launch website
- Active commercialisation
- Launch media plan

- Follow up prospects

Plot for building F, apartment building
In the context of the development of building F, decision is required on whether land is sold or leased

Sale
- Larger target customer group
- The potential profitability is higher for WCC if the building is not subject to particular housing regulations
- Leasing is unusual, because of inheritance issues related to the end of the lease period
- Attractive site for potential buyers, separate from other constructions on the estate

Land lease
- Buyer needs less capital to approach purchase
- Income guaranteed during lease period.
- Used by the canton and the commune
- Used particularly for rented property, particularly offices

Implenia recommends sale of the land for building F. Land lease is considered more appropriate for buildings C and D.

Hotel feasibility studies

Horwath
- Proposal for a 3* hotel, or hotel-residence with studios.
- Lease estimate: between 2.8 m and 4 m (1,200 to 1,600 per room per month) (30% Revenue)
- Lease basis not clear for the hotel-residence

Goodnight partners
- Mixed concept, with 3* hotel rooms and studios, to reduce risk
- Lease estimate : between 1.0 m and 1.5 m (15% Revenue).
- Provided analysis of international organisation demand, and analysis of hotels in station district

Conclusion
- Strong market interest because of location
- Several competitive projects underway in Geneva, but not in the international district.
- 3* positioning confirmed.
- Indication that lease agreement may be more difficult to obtain that management contract
- Whether hotel or studios, or a combination, is the best option remains to be further tested. Implenia recommends seeking operator offers from both hotel operators and hotel-residence operators.
- PwC recommends the combination basis, with one international operator competent in both.

Geothermal energy for E and F: a preferred offer under discussion

Option 1: Own A and B; sell land E; lease all other plots; development margin on C, D, E, F, G
2027: Loan CHF 8 million; annual income CHF 2.9 million; land sold: 12%

CHF 000	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Totals
Land sales E	22,384	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,384
C	-	-	-	-	4,635	4,635	4,635	-	-	13,906
D	-	-	-	-	2,309	2,309	2,309	-	-	6,926
E	4,308	4,308	4,308	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,924
F	-	1,585	1,585	1,585	-	-	-	-	-	4,755
G	-	-	2,976	2,976	2,976	-	-	-	-	8,929
Real estate margin	**26,692**	**5,893**	**8,869**	**4,562**	**9,921**	**6,944**	**6,944**	**-**	**-**	**69,825**
C	-	-	-	-	809	809	809	809	809	4,045
D	-	-	-	-	579	579	579	579	579	2,893
F	-	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	1,323
G	-	-	423	423	423	423	423	423	423	2,964
Annual landlease income		**165**	**589**	**589**	**1,976**	**1,976**	**1,976**	**1,976**	**1,976**	**11,224**
Implenia's share of land added-value			**(4,788)**				**(5,004)**			**(9,792)**
Construction B	**-**	**-**	**(10,953)**	**(10,953)**	**(10,953)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(32,858)**
Renovation A	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(7,777)**	**(7,777)**	**(7,777)**	**-**	**(23,331)**
Rental income and costs		-	-	-	-	319	937	937	937	3,130
Loans										
Reimbursement	(24,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24,000)
Interest at 1.5%	(360)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(360)
Construction loan	-	-	-	4,000	-	-	1,500	4,500	-	10,000
Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,000)	(2,000)
Interest at 2%	-	-	-	(80)	(80)	(80)	(110)	(200)	(160)	(710)
Net cash flow for year	2,332	6,058	(6,283)	(1,882)	864	1,382	(1,533)	(564)	753	
Cumulative		**8,390**	**2,108**	**225**	**1,090**	**2,472**	**939**	**376**	**1,129**	**1,129**

Option 3 (b): Own B and G; sell land E, F and C; lease D; development margin on C, D, E, and F

2027: Loan CHF 24 million; annual income (after interest) CHF 4.3 million; land sold: 53%

CHF 000	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	Totals
Land sales E, F and C	22,384	-	4,135	-	20,224	-	-	-	-	46,743
C	-	-	-	-	4,635	4,635	4,635	-	-	13,905
D	-	-	-	-	2,309	2,309	2,309	-	-	6,926
E	4,308	4,308	4,308	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,924
F	-	1,585	1,585	1,585	-	-	-	-	-	4,755
G	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Real estate margin	**26,692**	**5,893**	**10,028**	**1,585**	**27,168**	**6,944**	**6,944**	**-**	**-**	**85,253**
C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
D	-	-	-	-	579	579	579	579	579	2,893
Annual landlease income		**-**	**-**	**-**	**579**	**579**	**579**	**579**	**579**	**2,893**
Implenia's share of land added-value			**(3,410)**				**(5,004)**			**(8,414)**
Construction B	**-**	**-**	**(10,953)**	**(10,953)**	**(10,953)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(32,859)**
Construction G	**-**	**-**	**(12,421)**	**(12,421)**	**(12,421)**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(37,263)**
Renovation A	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**(7,777)**	**(7,777)**	**(7,777)**	**-**	**(23,331)**
Rental income B, net of costs	-	-	-	-	-	319	937	937	937	3,130
Rental income G					1,631	3,261	3,261	3,261	3,261	14,675
Loans										
Reimbursement	(24,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24,000)
Interest at 1.5%	(360)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(360)
Construction loan	-	-	9,000	22,500		-	-	3,500	-	35,000
Reimbursement	-	-	-	-	(5,000)	(2,000)	-	-	(4,000)	(11,000)
Interest at 2%	-	-	(180)	(450)	(530)	(490)	(590)	(660)	(480)	(3,380)
Net cash flow for year	2,332	5,893	(7,936)	261	473	835	(1,651)	(160)	297	
Cumulative		**8,225**	**289**	**550**	**1,023**	**1,859**	**208**	**48**	**344**	**344**

Bishop Swenson offered her thanks for this presentation. Several executive committee members thanked and commended Ms Dykes on the comprehensive and professional presentation.

Dr Tveit stated that in this phase, things are moving faster and with more concrete results. He noted that even with Geneva's bureaucracy and some opposition against projects, this project is about to be approved. It has increased the value of the property enormously, which raises possibilities but also requires decision-making.

Dr Quawas shared that some information was missing: there were no specifications about each building and how many square metres were proposed to be sold. For example, Dr Quawas noted that in one proposal, they were speaking about selling 12% of the land, and developing buildings which would generate an annual income of CHF 2.9 million; in another proposal, they were talking about selling 53% of the land, and developing buildings which would generate an annual income (after interest) of CHF 4.3 million. The information concerning the number of square metres of land to be sold had not been specified. He was not ready to decide on this issue without full information. He was also concerned that we still do not have the approval for the Area Development Plan.

The renovations will cost Swiss francs 23 million, while building a new building may cost Swiss francs 32 million. It will therefore cost Swiss francs 9 million more to demolish and create a new building, compared with renovating the old. He noted that the steering committee has a duty to bring us a complete proposal, and that much more work would remain to be done. The steering committee must be urged to work further on this project. In Dr Quawas' view, it remained early to decide on such a major issue as the sale of land, and many questions would still need to be raised.

Ms Pirri-Simonian asked if studies were done on the risk elements on the financing, or on any political challenges that might arise. In her view, the presentation emphasised the optimisticview, and not the risks.

Ms Dykes offered thanks for the questions.

Regarding the question of land, she shared that, as was presented by Implenia at the last executive committee meeting in June 2017, the area of land to be sold would be a strict minimum, being the area of land on which the building stands. However the owner of that building would also purchase rights and obligations in a co-sharing agreement for the estate. In the model presented, it is supposed that where one building might represent 20% of the future floor space in the development, then there will be a co-ownership value representing 20% of the land.

Ms Dykes said that in the decisions from June 2017, it was noted that the steering committee would look into the transaction process. This steering committee has to review all of the steps which will occur between now and a sale. Marketing and branding are preparatory steps. The legal agreement concerning the definition of the land to be sold, and the co-ownership terms, will be another step. Finally, there will be steps related to the investors. It will have to be determined which potential investors should be approached, and then determine which offer to accept.

Potential investors will require to receive an offer for sale, which will include building plans, the technical information about the building (including energy, approval processes, tenants, etc.). The steering committee will review the material before it is sent

Ms Dykes remarked that selling building E would give impetus to the process. At this stage, the principle that building F should be sold is to be determined, and not the actual sales transaction,

Concerning the need to provide more information, Ms Dykes confirmed that further data would be brought to the steering committee, in accordance with its role. Not all detailed information was presented in this session.

Dr Kamba Kasongo shared that she has seen the words “building together”. She wondered how the fellowship could take ownership of this project. The fellowship includes also the church of south, which would also wish to be able to participate in the project, so that it might be a project of all member churches.

Ms Dykes thanked Dr Kamba Kasongo for raising an important point. She shared that consultation of the archives had shown that churches from all over the world had made contributions towards the construction of the chapel and the Ecumenical Centre, and there was a history of sharing and giving. This dimension will need to be preserved in any new construction.

Regarding risk assessments, Ms Dykes shared that a risk assessment has been shared with the steering committee at each meeting. The risk element that will be discussed in particular at this meeting relates to the trend in rental price, which has been decreasing, in particular for office space. There is a great demand for both the residential buildings and the hotel building, which will be crucial for the success of the Green Village project. The risks lie in the real estate market for office space.

The general secretary commented that the renovation of the main building will require approvals from the heritage department, given its classification. One option may be that 150 people can work in the main building, with access to a cafeteria and other required facilities. This would mean that the Ecumenical Centre could develop an identity as a working space for the WCC, and our partners there, and they would continue to be close to us.

He remarked that at present, a large area of the main building serves as a transit area. It is largely a space through which one goes in order to reach wings, and it will no longer have that purpose in the future. The option to develop the building as an office working area became clear in the past month. It could release more of the other buildings for WCC as other sources of income, if there is a market for it. This could also reduce risk.

Dr Tveit added that the Ecumenical Centre is from the 1960s. The task of the WCC now is to make sure that the project be developed in such a way that provides feasibility, sustainability and the further economy of the WCC in the next 50 years. This is a realistic perspective of this project. The basic function must be to provide good, adequate space for WCC and its ecumenical partners, as well as to acquire some income from the property.

He shared that we need to look at the different options, considering what might be feasible financially, and what might be feasible in terms of permits and markets. The strategy for the project should serve the purpose of the WCC, and secure future income for the WCC. This is the best way we can be stewards of the heritage we have received, so that the WCC can work in Geneva with its partners.

Finally, the general secretary commented that in his view it would be difficult to make decisions; of that, he had no doubt. The presentation today showed that some aspects of the project would be complicated and some would be difficult. We will have to make decisions – not to make decisions would be poor leadership. This is our responsibility, and we would be taking into consideration the wisdom of our many advisors.

Bishop Swenson offered thanks for this time.

5.2 Report of the Steering Committee to the General Secretary

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session.

The general secretary presented the report. He reminded the executive committee that the steering committee reports to the general secretary, and the general secretary in turn reports to the executive committee.

Mandate of the steering committee

The steering committee was appointed by executive committee at its meeting in February 2014 with the following mandate:

(a) report to the executive committee on the process through the general secretary;
(b) ensure that the interests of the council are safeguarded, and
(c) explore possibilities of investments and/or contributions from member churches and other partners.

Objectives of the steering committee meeting of 20 November 2017

The steering committee met to address the following objectives:

- To recommend the strategy for building F land, being either sale or land lease; and
- To review a report on the transaction process, as required by executive committee;

and in addition:
To receive information on the latest update on the financial profile, and consideration of impact on possible strategies; and an update to the risk assessment; and

To hear updates and give support or direction on the following:

- Hotel operator selection process
- Dl-a feasibility study for Ecumenical Centre
- Security concept within the landscape structure
- Energy concept and provider
- Architectural charter update since June 2017.

5.2.1 STRATEGY FOR BUILDING F, THE APARTMENT BUILDING

The steering committee affirmed the strategy for the sale of the apartment building as the second step in the real estate project. The committee discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the land lease option. It was noted that the land for construction of apartments is subject to a price controlled by the Canton. Disadvantages related to the lease of land include inheritance issues at the end of the lease period; potential complexities for both tenant and landowner when an apartment is later sold or transferred; and a reduced interest from both institutional and private investors.

The steering committee noted that it was in the Council's interest to build capital for its own new building, and for the renovation of the main building. This objective was best achieved by a land sale.

The steering committee recommends that the executive committee:

a. approve the strategy for the sale of land, rather than the lease of land, for the apartment building; and

b. receive reports on the transaction process, in order that executive committee be prepared to take a decision on the actual sales transaction, expected in the first quarter of 2019.

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.2.2 REPORT ON THE TRANSACTION REVIEW PROCESS

The steering committee reviewed a planning document identifying the different tasks in the transaction review process for buildings E, the largest office building, and F, the apartment building, and the anticipated timeline. Tasks in which the steering committee will engage, and on which it will report to the executive committee, include the following:

- Decision on the preferred branding proposal for Green Village
- Appointment of a consultant transaction advisor
- Review of definition of the plots to be sold, and the related land co-ownership contract, defining rights and obligations
- Financial objectives set for the land and building, being the minimum acceptable sales price
- Definition of list of potential investors, who will receive the investment proposal.

The steering committee confirmed that the process included a review of the offers to be received, and that a recommendation concerning the best offer would then be submitted to executive committee for decision.

It was noted that the Council will also be invited to propose investor names. The steering committee considered that a first contact with potentially interested members churches or ecumenical partners could be made in anticipation after the approval of the Area Development Plan, in order that names might be submitted by the Council by June 2018.

The steering committee affirmed its commitment to meet monthly, on-line, or as necessary, and to exchange views electronically when required in order to manage the process. The steering committee supported the proposal that the general secretary might delegate specific tasks to a group of two or three members, which would then report back to the steering committee.

The steering committee recommends that the executive committee receive reports on progress with the transaction process in June 2018 and November 2018; and electronically between executive committee meetings, as may be required.

Dr Quawas asked for clarification about the last line of the recommendation: will the general secretary delegate for decision, or consultation purposes? The general secretary responded that it would be for consultation. Dr Quawas asked that a notation about consultation be added to the recommendation.

The recommendation was revised as follows:

> **The steering committee supported the proposal that the general secretary might, for consultation purposes, delegate specific tasks to a group of two or three members, which would then report back to the steering committee.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.2.3 FINANCIAL UPDATE AND RISK ASSESSMENT

The steering committee received a brief report on updates to the financial profile, while noting that further work was required by Implenia to complete the data.

The following was noted:

- an increased potential for profitability for WCC on building E, at about CHF 1 million more than estimated in November 2016;
- office rental income was reduced by about 4%, while the risk assessment based on brokers' reports suggested that it might actually be lower by a further 6%;
- the potential annual return from a hotel lease contract was reduced by 11%;
- an estimate of increased cost of 15% for the Ecumenical Centre renovation, with office space for 150 staff, had been quoted, but not yet included in the financial update; and
- given that the Canton of Geneva's social housing rules are understood not to be applicable in the international zone, and building F, the apartment building, may therefore be designed without such constraints, a significant increase in potential profitability was indicated for that building, from CHF 4.7 million in November 2016, to perhaps double that value. An estimate had not been precisely quantified.

The steering committee requested that the financial update from Implenia be finalised, and a report brought to the next meeting.

Dr Quawas asked about the return on the hotel lease being reduced. Dr Tveit noted that the estimated income had been revised in the last profiles shared by Implenia, however, as noted in the report, further work was required to explain and justify the revised financial profile.

5.2.4 OTHER MATTERS

The steering committee heard updates on the matters below, and gave guidance as follows:

a. Hotel operator consultancy
Supported the search for an international operator for a mixed basis three-star hotel, with apartments and hotel rooms, as highlighted in the PwC report; and agreed that PwC might be selected to lead the search process, mandated by WCC and Implenia.

b. Designlab-architecture feasibility study
Supported the direction taken in planning office space in the Ecumenical Centre.

c. Energy concept and provider for building E and F
Supported the proposal to select geothermal energy for Building E and F, as 100% renewable, and the more economic choice from the offers received by Implenia.

d. Architectural charter update
Received the update to the architectural charter, as reviewed in June 2017, and now including landscaping, and approved the directions taken.

e. Security concept within the landscaping
The steering committee heard a report on the feasibility of including reinforced bollards within the gardens and estate for security purposes, and a first indication of related costs. A further report is to be brought at the next meeting.

5.2.5 OUTSTANDING MATTERS FROM PRIOR REPORTS

The steering committee noted that a request for proposal is to be launched in early December for a project management consultant for the archives removal project, this work having been delayed from its original launch date of September.

Relevant guidance for the committee is to be summarised from the principles in the WCC project *Economy of Life, Care for Creation and Climate Justice*, in order that those principles can be integrated in the Green Village project work and decision-making processes.

The document as a whole was approved by consensus.

5.3 ACTION ON THE REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session. Bishop Swenson presented the report.

5.3.1 CURRENT FINANCIAL SITUATION

The finance sub-committee reviewed the results to 30 September 2017, the financial forecast 2017 (Doc. No. 27), and the Report on Progress with the WCC financial strategy 2014-2017 (Doc. No. 30).

The finance sub-committee noted that total income is forecast to reach CHF 25.2 million in 2017, close to the budget of CHF 25.8 million (2016: CHF 25.0 million). The total decrease in funds is forecast at CHF 0.8 million, being CHF 0.4 million more than budgeted. It was reported that unrestricted and designated funds were forecast to suffer a deficit of CHF 0.6 million, compared with a decrease of CHF 0.4 million budgeted.

The budget for 2017 had not included an allocation of unrestricted funds towards the cost of central committee. An allocation of CHF 300,000 from general reserves would be required in 2017 to cover half of the budgeted cost in 2018.

Further, in accordance with the strategy implemented from 2015, an allocation of general reserves towards the assembly fund was required in 2017.

The general reserves are forecast to close at CHF 6.9 million, above the target of CHF 6.1 million, after the transfers requested.

The leadership of the finance sub-committee consists of three members, as appointed by executive committee, namely, the moderator of the finance sub-committee, H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian, together with Rev. Dr Paul Gardner and the Most Rev. Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko, whose term in executive committee ends in December 2017. Subject to delegation by the executive committee, the leadership of the finance sub-committee approves and authorises for issue the annual financial statements at the end of April.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee:

a. require that a transfer of CHF 300,000 be made from the general reserves to programme funds at 31 December 2017 to be applied to the costs of central committee 2018;
b. require that a transfer of CHF 250,000 be made from the general reserves to the assembly fund at 31 December 2017, provided that the general reserves remain above the required target after the transfer;
c. appoint Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev as a member of the leadership of the finance sub-committee until the next meeting of executive committee; and
d. delegate to the leadership of the finance sub-committee the authority to approve and authorise for issue the financial statements 2017.

Dr Abuom noted that Archbishop Opoko (Methodist) represents a different church family than Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev (Eastern Orthodox). She also asked for clarification on whether (c) means until the next executive committee meeting in June 2018, or until the next assembly in 2021. Bishop Swenson replied that they were looking at people who were already members of the finance sub-committee and since Archpriest Goundiaev is already a member of that sub-committee, it made sense for him to fill that position between now and June 2018.

Dr Quawas asked whether any amount over the general reserves target could be transferred to the assembly fund. Ms Dykes shared that the executive committee could decide to transfer any amount higher than the general reserve target of Swiss francs 6.1 million, which represents the general reserves target set by the central committee. The central committee will review the target again in June 2018. The plan of Swiss francs 250,000 annual transfer had been determined as an appropriate recommendation, but it could be revised by executive committee at any time. She added that the next four years, from 2018-2021, would bring particular financial challenges as the building project would move into its first phase. For that reason, the transfer to the assembly fund would require careful consideration.

The general secretary strongly urged the committee to follow the recommendation of the finance sub-committee.

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.3.2 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

The audit committee had raised a point of emphasis for the attention of the finance sub-committee, concerning extraordinary depreciation, which is required to reduce the net book value of the wings of Ecumenical Centre planned to be demolished. The finance sub-committee heard that the depreciation charge would be compensated by a credit transfer from the designated fund for fixed assets, with no resultant impact on general reserves.

The finance sub-committee noted that the audit committee had reviewed a fraud risk assessment, and noted that the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy (Doc. No. 38) required that the finance sub-committee also review a report on fraud risks and actions taken. The fraud risk assessment, as shared with the audit committee, was then reviewed by the finance sub-committee. There were no material concerns to be reported to executive committee.

5.3.3 INCOME DEVELOPMENT

The finance sub-committee reviewed progress with income development as presented in the Finance Overview (Doc. No. 27), including funding for HIV work with UNAIDS and PEPFAR; support for

work with Syria from the German government, Swiss government and HEKS; fundraising efforts for the mission conference; renewed funding for joint activities with ICCO and with the Council for World Mission. The sub-committee also reviewed progress with 2017 member church contributions, currently recording 157 churches contributing CHF 3.4 million, noting that more contributions are expected before year-end.

The sub-committee reviewed progress with the income development milestones for 2017 (Doc. No. 30), noting that most milestones have been met. This was the penultimate review of milestones 2014-2017 and helped to inform consideration of milestones 2018-2021.

Reflecting on the period 2014-2017, the committee noted the following trends:

- The ability of the WCC to convene churches and interfaith partners (FBOs) to promote peace and justice in conflict countries/regions is a significant asset in fundraising;
- The ability to develop cooperative activities with churches and ecumenical partners based on common interests is a significant asset in fundraising; and
- What encourages all member churches to contribute more is a sense of solidarity and progress in strengthening the fellowship.

The sub-committee expressed gratitude to the member churches, ecumenical partners and other partners for their generous financial support and active involvement with the WCC in the period 2014-2017.

5.3.4 TOWARDS AN INCOME DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2018-2021

The committee reviewed the draft strategy outlined in Doc. No. 31, affirming the direction proposed for the income development plan 2018-2021, which is an integral part of the Financial Strategy 2018-2021.

The committee discussed establishing a “fundraising advisory group” to accompany the second period, suggesting that an advisory group representing each region and with the primary objective to increase the number of churches that contribute annually would be helpful. The committee noted that this might be a role for WCC presidents with reference to WCC Rule V.5.

The committee reviewed existing income development objectives, recommending they should be maintained for 2018-2021, with slight modifications and the addition of two campaigns as follows:

1. Strengthen financial stewardship of member churches
2. Build on strong relationships with specialized ministries
3. Develop new sources of income for priority areas
4. Strengthen fundraising for the Bossey Ecumenical Institute
5. Assembly fundraising (to be formulated as an objective)
6. Green Village fundraising (to be formulated as an objective)

With regard to the objective to *Develop new sources of income for priority areas*, the committee affirmed the assumption that new sources of income for 2018-2021 would most likely be identified for:

- Country specific activities with an inter-faith approach to peace-building and social cohesion, and
- Work related to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly but not limited to gender and health.

The sub-committee engaged a discussion on the need to develop Bossey Alumni relations in support of the objective to *Strengthen fundraising for the Bossey Ecumenical Institute*. The sub-committee noted the importance to the fellowship of maintaining communication not only with alumni, but also with former central committee members, commission members and others. Doing so may have ancillary benefits, including income development.

The committee reviewed draft milestones 2018-2021, noting that consistent milestones, which track progress from year-to-year, are more helpful in monitoring income development than variable

milestones that change each year. Draft milestones for each objective were reviewed and advice offered for further development.

With regard to the objective to *Strengthen financial stewardship of member churches*, the committee affirmed the need to elaborate milestones that measure:

- The number and percentage of member churches contributing annually
- The number of member churches contributing more in one year than in the previous year in original currency
- The number of churches that make a contribution after not having made a contribution in many years.
- Regional progress with member church contributions and identify priorities for follow up, i.e. using the percentage of member churches contributing as a bench mark to identify and challenge under-contributing regions.

The finance sub-committee recommends that the executive committee:

a. support the proposed outline for the income development plan 2018-2021 (Doc. No. 31) and the objectives listed above, for further elaboration and for presentation to the central committee in June; and

b. require that the decision to form a fundraising reference group, or not, be reflected in the income development plan for 2018-2021.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.3.5 BUDGET 2018

The sub-committee reviewed the draft budget 2018 (appendix 2 to Doc. No. 28), with total income of CHF 25.8 million, costs of CHF 28.9 million, and a total net reduction in funds and reserves of CHF 3.1 million.

All programme budgets are balanced or draw only on available restricted programme fund balances.

Restricted programme funds are budgeted to be drawn down by 70% or CHF 2.3 million, principally reflecting the use of balances for the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, CHF 1.3 million; Global Ecumenical Theological Institute, CHF 0.2 million; and central committee, CHF 0.3 million.

Of the six ecumenical initiatives included in the programme plans, a total credit from programme contributions of CHF 183,000 was required in the budget, to cover planned expenditure.

The Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy (EHAIA) and the WCC-Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (WCC-EAA) initiatives are budgeted with a high ratio of staff and staff related costs to income. However, the budget profile for both initiatives are complemented through time-bound cooperation agreements for specific project work with UNAIDS.

The sub-committee noted that the budget included a transfer of CHF 80,000 from unrestricted funds to the fund for priority areas held under the responsibility of the general secretary.

The Bossey conference centre budgets an overall deficit of CHF 48,000, close to the target included in the financial strategy 2014-2017.

The finance policy committee affirmed in June 2016 the recommendation of executive committee in November 2014 that “alternative plans be developed in advance to ensure that the next central committee held in Geneva be managed within a budget of CHF 500,000”. The sub-committee heard that the budgeted cost for central committee 2018 is CHF 600,000, the additional cost being required to ensure that all members could be accommodated in the same venue.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee:

a. approve the budget 2018 as presented;

b. require that a report be presented to executive committee at its next meeting setting out the expenditures incurred from the "fund for priority areas".

Dr Quawas referred to the line that read "the budget included a transfer of CHF 80,000 from unrestricted funds to the fund for priority areas held under the responsibility of the general secretary". He raised three questions, being firstly whether a report would be made on the expenditures in 2017 on the fund for priority areas; secondly, whether there remained a need for such a fund; and thirdly whether in principle, and to protect the general secretary, it would appropriate to require that there be supervision on allocations from the fund, in advance, by either the finance sub-committee, or the leadership of the central committee.

It was affirmed that a report on expenditures from the fund for priority areas would be made at the next meeting, as part of the annual financial report for 2017.

With regard to the second questions, the general secretary confirmed that there was a need to provide some flexibility for unexpected matters, which were nonetheless matters of priority. Dr Watkins supported this view, and also affirmed that the priority areas were defined by central committee and executive committee in the annual plans and budgets; and that the general secretary was in her view the office which must, as necessary, be able to react when realities vary from plan, with reference to the same agreed priorities.

With reference to any possible need to protect the general secretary, given potential risks associated with the authority to decide alone both on the priority, and on the disbursements, it was affirmed that transparency is an overriding principle in the Council's financial management. All expenditure was subject to audit, and there had been no audit issues raised concerning compliance with procedures with regard to this fund, or with regard to other expenditures during the general secretary's term. The meeting discussed impracticalities of consultation with members of finance sub-committee by e-mail, referring also to the fact that the finance sub-committee existed formally only when convened at executive committee.

Dr Quawas affirmed that by no means was his concern to be understood as any suggestion of lack of confidence in the general secretary. For reasons of protecting the general secretary, he wished the executive committee to consider adapting the text of the recommendations concerning the fund for priority areas to include the requirement that the priority and disbursements be decided in advance in consultation with the leadership of the central committee.

After further debate on these matters, the executive committee decided there would be no change to the paragraph or the recommendations. Consensus was not attained. Dr Quawas requested that his dissension be recorded.

This recommendation was approved by executive committee, with one dissension on the part of Dr Quawas, as described above.

5.3.6 CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

It was reported that capital expenditure in 2017 is forecast at CHF 495,000, CHF 44,000 lower than budget. The reduction principally concerns Bossey. Capital expenditure of CHF 589,000 is included in the draft budget 2018, being higher than the guideline of CHF 500,000 proposed for the strategic financial plan 2018-2021.

The increase in expenditure principally concerns replacement of the current WCC web platform and the installation of facilities in relation to the WCC mobility plan.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee approve the capital expenditure limit of CHF 589,000 for 2018.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.3.7 GENERAL RESERVES

General reserves are defined as those funds available to the Council after meeting its obligations and commitments, and without realising fixed assets.

A profile outlining the expected evolution of the general reserves was presented. The finance sub-committee noted the fluctuations which could occur during 2019 to 2023, reflecting the impact of inflows of capital from the land sales and building project sales, as well as subsequent investment in buildings.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee require that:

a. **a policy be drafted defining the restrictions to apply related to funds derived from the Green Village project, for approval by central committee in June 2018; and**
b. **the general reserves policy be subject to review, or be reconfirmed, by central committee in June 2018.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.3.8 FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2018-2021

The finance sub-committee reviewed the updated draft of the financial strategy 2018-2021, setting out indicators which will form the basis for the finance sub-committee monitoring during the next four-year period. The strategy sets out how the WCC aims to remain a sustainable organisation during the transition years of the Green Village project.

The finance sub-committee noted that during the period when wings are demolished, from mid-2020 to 2021, there is an estimated adverse financial impact of CHF 1.5 million in lost rental income.

In addition to the recommendations below, the finance sub-committee made the following proposals for consideration:

- a section be introduced on governing body meetings, to highlight a commitment that governing body meeting costs should decrease during the four-year period compared with costs from 2014-2017; and
- effort should be made to plan WCC project or governance meetings in Bossey, particularly in the low season;
- for the period after 2021, a rescheduling of the central committee to the low season should be considered to reduce costs.

The finance sub-committee recommends that the executive committee require that

a. an annual salary review process be included as step in the budget process, and that its completion be reported upon against an indicator to be included under Human Resources initiatives;
b. the estimate of adverse financial impact of CHF 1.5 million be further tested, and further work be undertaken to identify how it might be reduced; and

c. **the financial strategy for 2018-2021 be presented for approval by central committee in June 2018.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.3.9 JOINT SESSION: PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The sub-committees met with the aims of confirming principles of prioritisation, and methods for their implementation; and to confirm criteria for WCC ecumenical initiatives within that context.

The finance sub-committee presented the stable financial scenario for programmes, 2018-2021, with a level of programme income at CHF 18 million annually, compared with CHF 19.8 million average annual target for 2014-2017. Total programme income forecast in 2017 is CHF 18.4 million. The challenges in sustaining the broad range of projects and initiatives with an average executive capacity of one full-time equivalent executive per project were highlighted.

The criteria for prioritisation were confirmed, as stated in the document *WCC's programmatic work: integrated, focussed and result-oriented direction and content for 2016 and 2017*, executive committee June 2015, Doc. No. 8. In addition, it was identified that performance against indicators, and evaluation reports, normally conducted at least once in three years, should be taken into account as a criteria for prioritisation. The criteria might be applied to both projects and to ecumenical initiatives.

Following the meeting, the finance sub-committee observed that for future meetings, it would be helpful to share specific observations from the finance working sessions which could be relevant to the work of the programme sub-committee.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee require that in November 2018, when the draft budget 2019 is presented, it be accompanied by notes explaining the category of funds allocated by project, and the reasoning for the relative allocations.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.3.10 REPORT OF THE PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

The finance sub-committee noted that the collective retirement fund, *Profond*, has increased its assets from CHF 4.5 billion in 2012, when the assets and obligations of the WCC retirement fund were transferred, to over CHF 7 billion at present. The fund is in good standing, with an estimated coverage of 112% at 30 September 2017.

It was noted that WCC will call upon CHF 90,000 of the employer's reserve of CHF 1.3 million in 2018, to be distributed to members, compensating a 1% reduction in the annual employer's contribution of 12% to retirement savings. The reduction of the employer's contribution to 11% was implemented as a budgetary measure. The finance sub-committee encourages a return to the 12% employer's contribution in budget 2019.

The finance sub-committee recommends that executive committee require that the pension committee's dialogue with *Profond* on the theme of ethical investing be continued, and reported upon at the next meeting.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

Rev. Karl Johnson (Jamaica Baptist Union) asked how often an actuarial review is done on the plan. Ms Dykes explained that the fund *Profond* is reviewed annually.

5.3.11 INVESTMENTS

The sub-committee reviewed the report on the WCC's investments, noting that the guidelines approved in June 2017 for the general investment fund had now been implemented. The general investment fund of CHF 7 million is held with the objective of capital preservation. Given the negative interest now prevailing in Switzerland on bank deposits, funds are invested 20% in Swiss corporate bond funds, 65% in money market funds, with 15% held in cash.

5.3.12 OTHER MATTERS

The finance sub-committee reviewed a report on issues raised from prior meetings. All issues had been addressed, or have been addressed in the above report.

The report as a whole was approved by consensus.

Dr Abuom offered thanks for work on finance.

6. Programme

6.1 FIRST PRESENTATION ON PROGRAMME

Dr Abuom moderated a hearing session.

Dr Abuom invited Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins, the moderator of the programme sub-committee, to present the programme overview. The purpose of this overview was to present the documents that the programme sub-committee will be dealing with so the executive committee can share any questions and issues they would like the sub-committee to address.

Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (Doc. No. 04)

Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, deputy general secretary, offered a brief introduction to this document. She noted that Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace update (Doc. No. 04) gives the executive committee a summary of activities in some of the priority countries since the June 2017 meeting including the Korean peninsula, Syria, Iraq, Palestine and Israel. There are also pilgrim team visits to Nigeria, DRC, South Sudan and Burundi. She noted that the question of Orthodox membership in the reference group of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and in the theological study process has been resolved. The document also offers an overview of the PJP publications.

The PJP will have a presence at the World Mission Conference in 2018 through two workshops. The PJP will also have exposure at the upcoming central committee meeting in June 2018 through a thematic plenary. This will offer an opportunity to hear more of what is going on in the member churches about the PJP. In November 2018, there is a joint day between the ACT Alliance and the executive committee, with a focus on the 2018 PJP theme of diakonia and development. WCC programmatic activities are being planned with the churches and ecumenical partners for the 2018 PJP focus on Latin America and the Caribbean.

The programme sub-committee is being asked to receive the document and offer general direction as presented in Doc. No. 04. Dr Watkins offered thanks for this overview and the executive committee was invited to share questions, comment, and concerns as they discuss this document.

Archbishop Aykazian asked about work in Egypt given that the general secretary had visited Egypt. He asked if it would also be helpful to mention this as either as part of the regional focus on the Middle East or Africa. Dr Phiri referred to the report of the general secretary that highlights the churches' efforts in this country.

Dr Abuom asked about the theological grounding that would be important to highlight, especially as the central committee had raised a concern. She felt it would also be helpful for the general secretary's emphasis on unity and the theological work of the PJP to be synchronized. Dr Phiri noted that the theological study group met in June 2017 at the same time as the executive committee meeting, and will meet again in February 2018. The books that she mentioned are part of the theological study group publications.

Ms Pirri-Simonian asked about the educational aspect of the PJP and whether it is important to the PJP. Dr Phiri replied that the educational aspect of the PJP will be found in the report of the education and ecumenical formation commission because they have taken responsibility for this portion of work.

The general secretary observed the challenge related to terminology and how we show what is being done within the rubric of the PJP. In one sense, the PJP is the theme for everything that WCC does in this period, whether theology, visits, or peace efforts. It is important that we continue having this holistic approach. He noted that this particular report refers to some specific activities, particularly related to implementing the PJP, and therefore it has a limited scope. Once the programme has been fully presented, the larger picture of the PJP will emerge.

Bishop Aregawi Melese asked about Orthodox participation in the PJP reference group and the theological study group. Dr Phiri responded that the recommendations from the last executive committee had been implemented there is now a greater participation of Orthodox in the PJP reference group and in the theological study group.

Mid-Term Evaluation (Doc. No. 05)

Rev. Karl Johnson reported on the mid-term evaluation, and referred specifically to Second Progress Report (Doc. No. 05) and Renewal of the Strategic Plan (Doc. No. 06). He noted that the evaluation team's second progress report to the executive committee was produced primarily out of their second meeting, which was held in October 2017.

At that meeting the team accomplished a number of tasks including:

- reviewed data from on-line surveys;
- reviewed progress with the review of six sample projects;
- met with the general secretary to discuss preliminary results and the renewal of the strategic plan.

The survey was sent to 349 central committee members, commission members and advisors to the central committee. The evaluation team was pleased with the percentage and range of the responses: over 40% responded from all regions. The results validate the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace as a strong strategic direction for the life and work of the WCC. The results also affirm that the strategic objectives significantly contribute to realizing the pilgrimage. The progress report identifies trends in survey results that warrant more reflection, particularly on strengthening the sense of "belonging" to the fellowship.

With regard to the renewal of the strategic plan, the evaluation affirms the mission, direction and strategic objectives of the plan. It also confirms on-going efforts to strengthening the link between programmatic objectives and strategic objectives. However, the mid-term evaluation (MTE) team is concerned that the plan is too long, being over 20 pages. It is the view of the evaluation team that

renewal could lead to a shorter version of the existing plan with an accompanying document on programmatic implementation. Core elements may need little revision, but the MTE team recommends a renewed emphasis on the convening and invitational role of the WCC in response.

Learnings from the mid-term evaluation include:

- Better coordination of events – when and where
- Programme contributions to Strategic Objectives – strengthening the link
- Programme objectives and indicators 2018-2019 – strengthen the Strategic Plan

The mid-term evaluation team includes six people, of which three are central committee members, one a youth and one representative of the specialized ministries. The team wishes to place on record their gratitude for the opportunity to serve and their thanks to WCC staff members Mr Douglas Chial and Ms Laura Sandoval-Merritt as well as the consultant, Mr Thomas Lewinsky, for their hard work, efficiency and guidance in this project. The MTE team meets again in February 2018 and will complete its work by March 2018. The team looks forward to the feedback of the executive committee.

Dr Watkins offered thanks for the presentation, and invited comments and questions.

Mr Rudelmar Bueno de Faria (general secretary, ACT Alliance) asked about the programmatic work on advocacy, particularly the convening role of the WCC. He remarked that we need to take advantage as a communion of a fellowship of churches doing work on advocacy. This is something that churches were asking for the WCC to do and he suggested it be highlighted.

Dr Tveit reflected that this exercise shows that we have done some good work on how we develop our plans. The major issues should be emphasized in this work, e.g. advocacy, quest for unity, diakonia, etc. It would be very helpful if the programme sub-committee could look at this and perhaps suggest other themes.

Dr Abuom affirmed what had been said earlier, that the global community at global, regional, and national levels are looking towards faith communities to provide moral and ethical directions. They are not just looking at partnerships, but also the content input that is inspired and generated by the fellowship to support the churches at various levels. We are at a moment where the global community and where actors at all levels are seeking direction from the faith communities.

Metropolitan Nifon asked whether for the coming period, 2018-2021, the WCC would basically do the same work as it has been doing in 2014-2017. Dr Watkins responded that because we are in an eight-year period (which is divided into two halves) that much of the description of the context and history of what we are trying to accomplish in the period between assemblies will remain the same. What will change in the second period are some of the specific goals and objectives, given that some would have been accomplished in the first period, and there is a need, given the context, to make some changes. Some of this strategic plan will stay the same but there will notations in the final document, following the recommendations of the mid-term evaluation.

The general secretary affirmed this understanding and noted that the strategic directions as they are formulated are not timeless. They are formulated in a way so that they are open categories. We want to look at what kind of advocacy and focus should be according to what has been achieved. He would encourage the committee to think about what else the WCC should be focusing on in the next four years.

Dr Quawas focused on the Doc. No. 06 Proposed Revision WCC Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 commenting on the issue of the Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre and the annual Ecumenical Forum on Palestine and Israel (PIEF). He observed that in the plans, both of these issues have been cancelled. He noted it was transferred only through EAPPI. This issue is still under discussion with Palestinian

Christians. He can understand that this document is for information, but if it is going to be the strategic plan for the future, then we need to discuss these issues more. Before finalizing the work of the programme sub-committee, he asked for more clarity on this issue and a concrete proposal about this programme.

The general secretary welcomed the discussion about what should be prioritized. He said that the question about the Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre and PIEF are emphasized in the new plan in Doc. No. 13 to be tabled later.

Thanks were offered for the comments.

Programme Plans 2018 (Doc. No. 07.1 and 07.2)

Dr Watkins shared that this document outlines the WCC plans and activities for 2018, a significant year for the WCC since it is both half-way between assemblies, and it marks the 70th anniversary of the organization.

Mr Chial provided an overview of the WCC programme structure, as follows:

- General Secretariat – G1
- Transversal issues – T1-T5
- Unity, Mission & Ecumenical Relations – UM1-UM3
- Public witness and diakonia – W1-W5 & D1-D10
- Education and Ecumenical Formation – EF1-EF3
- Communication – C1

He noted that the programme plans for 2018 come under each of the above-named headings.

The general secretary shared that the programme plans are now developed as the fourth set of plans in this period. In these plans, they wanted to exercise a clear structure in terms of defining objectives and indicators to assess what they have achieved as well as the outcomes of the work. He hoped that the executive committee would see that efforts have been made to define the objectives in the best way, so that we can evaluate what we have achieved. More work is needed on clarity of objectives for each programme. In addition, they are looking at significant events as good focal points to shape the work.

<u>General Secretariat</u>

The general secretary spoke about the programme plans for the general secretariat. There are two themes for 2018 for the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. The regional theme is Caribbean and Latin America, and the thematic focus is Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development. The general secretariat is also focusing on and contributing to the PJP. The churches and partners provide funds not only for programme, but also for the general secretariat. It is important to see that there are connections between certain activities and responsibilities in the general secretariat. It is also crucial to see what the specific focal points are for the general secretariat in the upcoming year.

He further outlined the work of the general secretariat:

The general secretariat – G101

- Coordinating the work of the secretariat
- Strengthening the fellowship through representation and participation
- Green Village building project

Governing bodies – G102

- Leadership of the central committee
- Executive and central committees

- Permanent committee (PCCC)

General secretariat initiatives – G104
- Conference office and mid-term evaluation
- Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the WCC

Library and Archives – G105
- Moving archives and digitising the collection

Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace – G106
- Thematic and regional foci
- Joint day with ACT Alliance, November (Uppsala)
- Reference group meeting in February (Bogota)

Reference group on human sexuality – G107
- Study document for review in November by executive committee

Preparations for the 11th assembly – A1
- Assembly Planning Committee
  - February and December
- Central committee
  - Ethos and Style
  - Theme and Venue
  - Seat Allocation
- Assembly Worship Planning Committee
  - December

Transversal Issues

Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, deputy general secretary, reported on four of the transversal issues:

Church and Ecumenical Relations – T1
- Coordinating relations with member churches and ecumenical officers meeting in Latin America
- Reflection on conciliar ecumenism with REOs and NCCs and strengthening relations with CWCs; this is proposed to be in Argentina
- Joint working group with the Roman Catholic Church
- Engaging Pentecostals in the mission conference
- WCC participation in the Global Christian Forum

Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement – T2
- WCC youth interns and stewards programmes
- ECHOS – youth commission
- Leading ecumenical formation seminar on sustainable development in Cuba
- Preparing youth event in Amsterdam to celebrate the 70th anniversary
- Strengthening youth engagement across all WCC programmes

Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation – T4
- Bilateral relations with Buddhist-Christian dialogue, Muslim Council of Elders, Sikhs and Shia students
- Multilateral dialogue on religious nationalism, conference on interreligious dimensions of migration and a booklet on “education for peace”
- Consultation on Interreligious Theology of Liberation
- Youth in Asia Training and Nigeria monitoring centre

- Collaborating with other teams

Spiritual Life – T5
- Supporting major WCC events with common prayer
    - Mission conference, central committee, 70th anniversary
- Ecumenical Centre common prayer
- Online version of the ecumenical prayer cycle
    - Songs, prayers, liturgies
- Supporting other teams with resources and leadership for common prayer

Prof. Dr Phiri reported on one additional transversal issue.

Just Community of Women and Men – T3
- Developing a gender justice policy for the WCC
- Women's pre-conference to CWME in Arusha
- Thursday's in Black and trainings on sexual gender-based violence (SGBV)
- Pilgrim team visit to Jamaica in 2018
- Working with other teams to promote gender justice, particularly with international affairs
- Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the launch of churches in solidarity with women; this will be in Mexico

The committee was invited to bring comments or questions.

Ms Pirri-Simonian suggested that with the 30th anniversary of the launch of the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women in 2018, it would be good to hold a meeting of Orthodox women. Dr Phiri referred to the gender advisory group report, in which this is raised.

In response to a question from Bishop Samuel Azariah about the transversal related to interreligious dialogue and cooperation becoming a WCC programme, the general secretary responded that this proposal had come to the staff leadership group. They had discussed this and concluded with three affirmations:

1. Transversals are also programmes of the WCC. Being named a transversal has to do with the particular character of their work rather than its status. For example, youth should not be isolated; it is important how this works with other programmes. He noted that this was a concept introduced several years ago. It is not that they are second class programmes, but they are a particular type of programme that we want to emphasize.
2. It is a questionable use of time to change the structure at this time and it may not be really worth it. Without significant reasons to change right now, this should perhaps wait till the next assembly.
3. Programme integration is not related to how a programme is named, rather, it is related to how the programme is pursued and how it works. This programme has a lot of potential, regardless of how it is named.

Dr Abuom asked about the integration of transversals which has been an issue of debate since they were instituted. The programme sub-committee needs to look at the strategies and methodology of re-invigorating these parts of the programme that may get lost. However a work area is labelled, what is important is how the issues are lifted up, how the work is being done. The programme sub-committee could look at this more closely.

Dr Kamba Kasongo talked about the transversal on just community of women and men, specifically for women with disabilities. She sees the composition of the PJP pilgrim visits to Africa, and to Congo. She noted that in each continent, there are women with disabilities who are active in networks and it is good to alert them and get them involved.

Rev. Robina Winbush asked when the gender justice policy would be ready. Dr Phiri responded that the gender justice policy will be presented to the central committee in 2020.

Unity, Mission, and Ecumenical Relations – UM

Dr Sauca presented an overview of this area.

Faith and Order – UM1
- Study texts on "proclaiming peace" and "ecumenical theology on justice and creation"
- Analysis of responses to "The Church Towards a Common Vision"
- Study on "new and emerging churches"
- Case study review on Moral Discernment
- "Week of Prayer on Christian Unity" – 2020 in Malta
- Digitising Faith and Order papers

Mission and Evangelism – UM2
- World Conference on Mission and Evangelism, March, Arusha
- Promoting reflection on "Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship"
- Continuing work on missional formation, explorations in evangelism and International Review of Mission

Mission from the Margins – UM3
- EDAN – disability study materials for Latin America (Ecuador), Bible studies to resource "Gift of Being", disability rights, participation in Arusha, CEC, AACC
- Migration and multicultural ministry – xenophobia and populism (Rome), solidarity gathering (Arusha)
- Indigenous Peoples Network – Indigenous spirituality and reconciliation (Tonga); young theologians (Arusha)

Public Witness

Dr Phiri presented the programmes proposed for 2018.

Churches Commission on International Affairs – W1
- CCIA commission meeting in February (Colombia)
- Symposium on Christian ethics and human rights

Ecumenical United Nations Office – W2
- Representing WCC at UN in New York
- Promoting partnerships on peace and security, religion and development, sustainable development gender justice, Indigenous rights and peace-building

EAPPPI – W3
- International and local coordination to support 135 ecumenical accompaniers in 2018
- Awareness building and advocacy; implementing EAPPI strategic plan

Peace building country and region focus – W4
- Korean Peninsula; Palestine and Israel; peace initiatives in Syria and Iraq; peace building in South Sudan, Sudan, DRC and Burundi

Human dignity and rights – W5
- Advocacy and action for human rights and the elimination of statelessness – access to UN and periodic reviews; training in Caribbean, racism and the UN decade on people of African descent

- Churches' commitment to children – facilitating partnership and capacity building with UNICEF
- Arms control and disarmament – nuclear disarmament, Arms Trade Treaty; lethal autonomous weapons

The committee was invited to comment on the reporting so far.

In response to a question about Indigenous rights, Dr Phiri said that the work on Indigenous rights will focus on issues of land, education, all within the context of the PJP. If it is an Indigenous practice that does not promote justice, then it will not be emphasized.

Dr Quawas observed that in the summary, issues of migrant workers, refugees and statelessness are missing in the public witness section, despite the work that has already been going on in those areas.

Thanks were offered for the comments and the programme sub-committee would follow up.

Diakonia – D

Dr Phiri presented areas of work in this programme area.

Economy of life, care for creation, sustainability, and climate justice – D1
- Governance, economics, and management (Mexico)
- Handbooks for community-based alternatives
- Conference on food and finance (Colombia)
- Ecumenical panel on financial architecture (NIFEA)
- Ecumenical advocacy at COP24 (Poland)
- Reflection on economy of life and Indigenous spiritualties; interfaith cooperation for climate justice

Ecumenical Water Network – D3
- Seven Weeks for Water – Lenten campaign
- Ecumenical advocacy at World Water Forum (Brazil)
- Eco-School on Water, Food and Climate Justice (Haiti)

Diakonia and capacity building – D5
- Seminars for diakonia and development in Latin America
- Reception of "Ecumenical Diakonia" and regional seminar (Cuba)

Health and Healing – D6
- Collaboration with WHO and Christian health association participation at WHO meetings
- Ecumenical Global Health Strategy, including scientific, ethical and theological reflection; best practices in congregation-based health programmes; and evidence based mapping of Christian health assets

Ecumenical HIV-AIDS Initiative and Advocacy (EHAIA) – D7 and D8
- New initiative with church media and schools on HIV and intergenerational safe space workshops for 6000
- Contextual Bible study methodology, mainstreaming HIV and SGBV in theological curriculum
- Manuals on "treatment adherence and faith healing in Africa" and new curricula
- Scaling up in DRC and Nigeria with UNAIDS/PEPFAR
- Offices in Africa; activities in Jamaica and Philippines

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance – D9 and D10

- Food for Life campaign – food security and justice; on-line course in 2018; churches' week of action and advocacy tools for congregations.
- World Aids Day campaign – promoting HIV testing and treatment; Faith Paediatric AIDS champions; Framework for Dialogue in DRC and Nigeria with UNAIDS/PEPFAR; inter-faith gatherings at international AIDs conferences

Ecumenical Education and Formation – EF

Dr Sauca shared about this programme area.

Ecumenical Theological Education – EF1

- Regional association debates on quality standards, ecumenical theological education and leadership development
- Pan-African Women's Ecumenical Network (PAWEEN) at the mission conference
- Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI) – 120 young theologians for study and formation in Arusha

Ecumenical Institute, Bossey – EF2

- Academic courses, in collaboration with the University of Geneva, offering three degrees and an English course
    - graduating 34 students in 2017-2018
    - enrolling 35 students in 2018-2019
- Certificate in advance studies in interreligious studies, for 30 Jewish, Christian and Muslim youth aged 18 to 30

Ecumenical Continuing Formation – EF3

- Short-term courses, seminars and webinars, in collaboration with other programme areas
- Two-week course on pastoral challenges in sharing the faith with younger generations in multi-cultural and multi-faith world

Dr Kamba Kasongo shared that, when the CWME organized the meeting for young theologians, the challenge was that it was English-only. She wanted to know more about the selection about the young theologians for GETI. Dr Sauca responded that the full list is posted on the electronic shared drive. They did not have a group in Geneva who selected the students for GETI. Rather, there were regional groups who scrutinised the applications from their particular regions. They were very careful to have a gender balance, confessional balance, and age balance, and to not go beyond a certain age for the 120 students.

Communication – C1 (Doc. No. 17)

Ms Marianne Ejdersten, director of communication, reported. The communications update takes as its starting point the executive committee's decision in June 2017 and presents a projected view of work accomplished in the period of 2018-2021, outlining visions as well as concrete results and working procedures envisioned for the department and its work with WCC programmes. It further reports on the work in collaboration with the WCC's programmatic areas in the second half of 2017.

Communication Strategy – catalyst for change – C101

- Communication support for the pilgrimage, crisis communication strategy and Green Village

Language Service – C102

- Translation and interpretation services

Media and Web Office – C103

- Strategies and services for programmes; revised website in 2018, WCC fellowship on social media

Publications – C104

- Editorial and publication services for the pilgrimage, major events and 70th anniversary; WCC journals; digitization archives

Promotion – C105

- Promotional items, brochures, flyers and posters; WCC visitors' programme, welcoming people to the Ecumenical Centre

Ms Ejdersten showed a short video that showcased Ms Nora Carmi, who is one of the people in the '12 Faces of Hope' video, produced by the WCC in 2017. This video project is part of a special project to bring hope to the region. Of the twelve voices, two are youth, one is Muslim, and the rest are Christian. She noted that the speakers were all asked to share their own stories, told to the world. The WCC also created a special exhibition. The exhibition was launched in Beit Sahour, Palestine, June 2017. All member churches are invited to use this exhibition.

Ms Ejdersten observed that social media is extremely important for reaching out. When they published the story with Ms Carmi on Facebook, they received 400 comments within a few days; people noted that they appreciate the work she is doing, that she inspires people, and it helped spurred local churches into further action. She also commented that when the exhibition was in the ecumenical centre, it took place at the same time when as the Nobel Peace Prize was given to ICAN. There were press from around the world, and they took photos of the prize winners with the exhibition in the background. This gave the exhibition even further global exposure.

Ms Ejdersten noted that the WCC's strategic objective 5 is on inspiring and innovative communication. She shared that they are working on this, and yet there is still more that can be done.

Archbishop Aykazian wanted to commend the communications director for the excellent job that she had been doing. He has noticed, for example, that photos and statements from executive committee meetings are frequently posted. He hopes and prays that they will continue in this direction.

Dr Abuom offered thanks for the presentation. Earlier, she noted that Bishop Samuel Azariah presented the question of ownership of the ecumenical movement. She wondered if might be helpful to check in with member churches about events and celebrations and centenaries and synods; these could be shared more widely. If the communications is only focused on governance and what individually can be done this is good, but we could consider that more could be done. Dr Watkins shared this fits with their understanding of the integration of programmes. She reminded the executive that they will be asked to review and approve the programme summary for 2018.

Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) observed that of the list presented, she did not see the responsibility for the PCCC. She noted that this is a para-governing committee, and that it belongs in the list for G102. She reflected that oversight for having documentation prepared on time and sent ahead could have used more attention. She is worried that this work is getting lost in the cracks. Others committee members clarified that the PCCC is indeed listed there, under governing bodies, G102. Dr Watkins commented that it is good that this concern is noted; the work is still moving into its fullest.

Dr Abuom offered thanks to Ms Glynn-Mackoul for raising the question of Orthodox participation in various groups. Dr Phiri had noted that the issue of Orthodox participation was resolved, however, Dr Abuom shared that we will need to recognize the challenges of ensuring Orthodox participation in various committees. She invited Ms Glynn-Mackoul to share a bit more about the PCCC.

Ms Glynn-Mackoul replied that the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC) is the mechanism for monitoring consensus issues. Hot issues can be sorted out in that small body before coming to the larger body. She noted that it is critical for it to be resourced properly. Both sides need to push each other. The dynamic needs to be mutually challenging. The report of the PCCC would be presented later so there can be a fuller discussion about this at that time.

Mr Bueno de Faria expressed his satisfaction that ACT Alliance is noted throughout all of the different programme plans. He sees cooperation between ecumenical diakonia and the joint advocacy work that they want to do. He also wanted to express commitment from ACT Alliance to engage with the WCC as much as they can together at the national, regional, and global levels in upcoming years. He can also see ACT and WCC working together to access funds from the UN and other global agencies. He would like to express this commitment as well.

Rev. Robina Winbush offered a prayer to close this part of the session.

Conference on World Mission and Evangelism Update Report (Doc. No.10)

The documents shared outline the rationale behind and the plans for the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME), characterizing it as a mission conference, an ecumenical conference, an African conference, and a younger mission leaders conference.

Metropolitan Dr Mor Geevarghese Coorilos, moderator of CWME, offered an update on the conference plans. He expressed his deep sense of gratitude for the opportunity given to the CWME to brief this body on the progress of their preparations for the upcoming Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, which will be held in Arusha, Tanzania, 8-13 March, 2018. Since the last meeting of the executive committee in June 2017, they have made significant progress in their preparations for the conference which is shaping up very well. The conference theme is: Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship. The scripture is “If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

The WCC Conference on World Mission and Evangelism in Arusha aims to be characterised in four distinct ways: a mission conference, an ecumenical conference, an African conference, and a younger mission leader’s conference. The themes, *Moving in the Spirit: Called to Transforming Discipleship* brings forth the notion of pilgrimage, of an on-going journey of all believers, led and guided by the Holy Spirit. This is a pilgrimage that is characterised by constant hope for a transformed world of justice and peace and a commitment to renewal in Christ. This theme offers a prophetic message amidst the complexities of today’s world.

Metropolitan Coorilos reminded the group that the Trondheim central committee meeting (July 2016) has approved the following categories of delegates:
800 delegates (500 international delegates, 200 African delegates, and over 100 Global Ecumenical Theological Institute, GETI students)

- 50% women, 33% youth including GETI, 60% from the developing world, 5% from Networks representing Mission from the Margins
- 50% from WCC member churches (25% shall be Orthodox)
- 25% from CWME affiliated bodies
- 25% from the wider constituencies (Roman Catholic, Evangelicals and Pentecostals)

Around 247 nominations from member churches, 90 from the affiliated bodies and mission networks, 19 from the wider constituencies, 144 GETI students and facilitators, and 31 observers have been received so far. The CWME has rejected 19 nominations, which either do not satisfy the selection criteria, or request too many subsidised participants for the relative size of the church. Additionally, the 28 guests (WCC officers, presidents, former CWME moderators and directors, moderators of

sister commissions, global mission leaders) have been invited along with 13 advisors and 9 worship and Bible study leaders, 27 resource persons and 31 staff. So far 620 participants have been selected. A further 200 participants from the African churches, and 50 participants from the wider constituencies (RCC, Pentecostal, WEA, Lausanne) are expected. It is therefore expected that there will be approximately 870 participants but considering apologies, the total number of participants will be closer to 800 as planned.

The CWME has a saved conference reserve of about CHF 900,000 and is targeting to fund-raise an additional CHF 900,000. So far 80% of the targeted amount has been contributed or promised (60% in written assurances). The revised budget of the conference is about 1.7 million CHF. The commission's leadership will continue to fundraise after the conference is finished in order to secure the targeted amount.

The spiritual life committee (SLC) works on 1) Common prayers – gathering, morning prayers, midday prayers on a confessional model, evening prayers, sending service; 2) Bible study – four sessions, each with a 20-minute presentation followed by group sharing and discussion at round tables; 3) Spiritual exercises and pastoral accompaniment, including a pilgrimage, several ways of praying, chaplaincy. The SLC has selected the passages for the daily Bible study and invited leaders for each day. Musicians, liturgists and Bible study leaders have been mobilised by the SLC and participated in the committee meeting in May and October. Meanwhile, material is being prepared through Skype conferences. The aim is also to provide a transformative spiritual environment, extending beyond the formal worship sessions of the conference.

Programme – tentative programme

<table>
<tr><th>Time/Date</th><th>Thursday 08</th><th>Friday 09</th><th>Saturday 10</th><th>Sunday 11</th><th>Monday 12</th><th>Tuesday 13</th></tr>
<tr><td>08:30-09:00</td><td rowspan="2">Gathering Service</td><td colspan="2">Morning Prayer</td><td rowspan="4">Sunday Service</td><td colspan="2">Morning Prayer</td></tr>
<tr><td>09:00-10:00</td><td colspan="2">Bible Study</td><td colspan="2">Bible Study</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:00-10:30</td><td colspan="3">Coffee Break</td><td colspan="2">Coffee Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>10:30-12:00</td><td>Opening Plenary</td><td>Plenary</td><td>Plenary</td><td>Plenary</td><td>Plenary</td></tr>
<tr><td>12:00-14:00</td><td colspan="6">Lunch</td></tr>
<tr><td>14:00-15:30</td><td>CWME Plenary</td><td>Warsha*</td><td>Warsha</td><td rowspan="4">Exposure</td><td>Warsha</td><td>Warsha</td></tr>
<tr><td>15:30-16:00</td><td colspan="3">Tea Break</td><td colspan="2">Tea Break</td></tr>
<tr><td>16:00-17:30</td><td>Small groups reflection</td><td>Sokoni* Youth</td><td>Sokoni Women</td><td>Sokoni Margins</td><td>Final plenary</td></tr>
<tr><td>17:30-18:00</td><td colspan="3">Reflection of day and evening prayer</td><td>Evening prayer</td><td>Sending Service</td></tr>
<tr><td>18:00-20:00</td><td colspan="6">Dinner</td></tr>
<tr><td>20:00-21:30</td><td>Tanzania Mission Evening</td><td>Dialogue with GETI</td><td>African Evening</td><td></td><td>Cultural Evening</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

*Warsha: workshop, seminar; Sokoni: marketplace

The GETI theme – "Translating the Word, Transforming the World" – is intended to be response to the WMC theme. An online application kit has been made available. Around 180 applications have been received, from which 120 participants are selected. 24 academic facilitators are being appointed (12 women and 12 men). A digital learning platform is being prepared so that there can be a 3-month period of e-learning from December 2017 to February 2018. There was a preparatory meeting in Cluj, Romania (7-11 October), for academic facilitators. The proposed schedule is ready and a textbook

will be prepared by the end of the year. 60% of the CHF 330,000 budget is already in place with further fundraising efforts underway.

Dr Watkins offered thanks for this informative and inspiring report. Unity and mission are bound together and it good that the conference will focus on both. She asked the executive committee for comments, questions, and observations. The purpose will be to discuss the general direction, and eventually they will finalize this general direction and approve the report.

The general secretary offered thanks for this excellent report and for everything that had been done to prepare the conference. He reiterated the importance of mission and unity. In conversations with church leaders about this conference, it is stressed that the discussion of mission should happen in the WCC as churches together rather than only by missiologists. He also asked that there is a need for those who are not present to be able to follow what is happening in this conference, so that they have access to both the event and the outcome of the event.

He asked how this event can be a learning moment for WCC as we plan towards the assembly, and how it can also be meaningful for people who cannot attend. It is important that the executive and central committees take ownership of it and provide strong support to give rise to other dimensions of the work.

Metropolitan Coorilos responded with thanks to the general secretary for his work and for the support of the entire CWME in preparing this conference. He added his thanks to the CWME director, Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum for the leadership he is providing for the CWME and for organizing a great conference.

He affirmed that the member churches are represented in the conference. In addition, mission is always related to the concern of unity. They have invited the moderator of the Faith and Order commission to be one of the speakers to talk about mission and unity. There will be a significant number of people attending from that commission and there will be a workshop on ecclesiology and mission.

With regard to communication, he said that information, in the form of a letter, has been sent to congregations describing the conference and requesting Christians to pray for its success. The coverage of the conference will be on churches' websites, and church and other private and public radio stations. The hosting church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) has four radio stations. The Radio Voice of the Gospel in Moshi will have a live transmission of the conference for three hours during the opening and it will link with other church and ecumenical stations. The church media houses will send at least reporters to cover the conference. The mainstream media, such as public and private TV, radio and newspapers, will be invited to cover the opening session. Local photographers will make DVD's and photos.

In terms of the ownership, Metropolitan Coorilos stated that several central committee members have been invited to attend. He hopes that all members of the central committee will be there.

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian said that the website would not be sufficient enough to be able to follow this very important conference. He asked if there a way of following online, for those who cannot attend physically. Ms Ejdersten responded that they have promised to do their best to make the conference available for everyone all over the world. They have developed several tools, and it will be live-streamed. They have also made arrangements with local churches. There is a communications plan and daily news for local and world media will be provided. There will also be daily press conferences. The conference is of huge interest in the African context. She will continue to dialogue with Metropolitan Coorilos and Dr Keum about the interaction and communications.

Dr Abuom added that East Africa has many church television and radio stations. There is also a university that specializes in the training of journalists, both secular and religious. She asked if we

could enhance this network in Kenya and Tanzania. In this region, she noted that there are many communications possibilities, in addition to the live streaming options. Bishop Aregawi Melese added that an Orthodox channel has opened a 24-hour television programme.

Dr Kamba Kasongo stated that the Busan assembly was unforgettable in its inclusiveness of people with disabilities. She asked about inclusiveness in this upcoming conference. Dr Keum replied that they have provided the whole list of participants for this event, with balances, including people representing EDAN, indigenous peoples networks, and mission from the margins networks. They received a list from the EDAN staff of who could be invited. He also shared that the EDAN staff coordinator is part of their CWME staff group. They are looking at all of the elements of accessibility for the conference.

He also mentioned Facebook as a communication tool that CWME has been using over the past ten years. Information about the conference has been shared through that page.

Ms Pirri-Simonian offered thanks to Metropolitan Coorilos for this clear presentation. She wondered whether there were going to be guests from other faith communities. She is happy that mission is now focused on unity, but mission has been misunderstood by other faiths. It would be helpful to have observers there. Dr Keum replied that since we are having the context in the African context, the peaceful co-existence between Christians and Muslims will be very important, not only for the wider context of Africa, but also for the global context.

Metropolitan Coorilos stated that they will do whatever they can to make sure that communication works, with the support of the WCC communications department, so that the whole conference can be live-streamed. There will also be a pre-conference meeting for women and they are also hoping that an Orthodox pre-conference will also take place.

Dr Keum added his thanks to the IMD department as they are helping to ensure 80% of their fundraising target. He wanted to acknowledge their support.

Dr Watkins offered thanks once again for this report and for all of this work.

Reports Referred to Programme Sub-Committee

Dr Watkins spoke about the various reports referred to the programme sub-committee.

<u>Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Update (Doc. No. 11) and Ecumenical Diakonia Document Study Guide (Doc. No. 11.1)</u>

In response to the executive committee of June 2017, the Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Update (Doc. No. 11) reports that the ecumenical diakonia study guide is ready and attached and outlines the progress made since that time. Dr Abuom commented on dissemination asking that not only the church heads be sent the document but that also the ecumenical relations and diakonia departments. The comment was well received.

<u>EAPPI Baseline Study with chart (Doc. No. 12.1) and EAPPI Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (Doc. No. 12.2)</u>

After receiving WCC-EAPPI evaluation report, the executive committee of November 2016 requested a WCC-EAPPI Strategic Plan 2018-2021 and WCC- EAPPI Baseline Study. The documents being presented to the executive committee were prepared by MIMAT, the same organisation that conducted the evaluation, in consultation with all the stakeholders of WCC-EAPPI. Both documents enhance the anchoring of the EAPPI programme within WCC structures and link it with the current external and internal context. The two documents show that the Strategic Plan provides guidelines for the integration of security, safeguarding and gender policies into the programme in the next years and

it promotes partnership and coordination with local churches, national coordinators and other relevant actors. It also shows that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure indicators yearly have been established.

Plan for WCC Involvement for Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine (Doc. No. 13)

After 50 years of Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories following the 1967 War, the vision of an end to occupation and a just peace in the region remains unfulfilled, while the urgency of Palestinian Christian calls for ecumenical action to address this situation increases. The document reiterates the call of the Palestinian people for solidarity and actions that can bring change, through nonviolent means, by individuals, groups, churches, governments and intergovernmental organizations, and how the programmatic work of the WCC is a response to this call and a contribution to establishing a just peace for all in Israel and Palestine.

The general secretary affirmed that this report was based on the plans that they already had. It includes a multi-faceted approach and he noted that there have been programmes for many years, such as the Jerusalem Inter-Church Centre office. The plan looks at how best the forum could be best facilitated, following the June 2017 consultation in Beit Sahour. How can the WCC address the current situation together with the churches and Christians there, along with churches worldwide? He noted that details will be discussed in the sub-committee.

He commented that he had spent some time considering how this programme relates to others including interfaith, church relations, communications, and youth. In this plan, an advisory group and a task group among staff are proposed to coordinate and enhance efforts for this particular work. In addition, he noted that a new staff member who is responsible for the Middle East programmes has been appointed, who will also participate in the work of the sub-committee.

In response to a question for clarification, the general secretary offered thanks and said that the Palestine Israel Ecumenical Forum (PIEF) was created after Amman in 2006. He himself had been appointed to this forum by the WCC general secretary at that time, and also served as its moderator, until he was appointed as the WCC general secretary. He has since been monitoring this work more recently from a distance. He noted that the mandate for a forum came from the central committee. However, the mandate of the forum was not clear from the very beginning. He said it was necessary to bring clarity about the roles of a forum and those of an advisory group.

Dr Watkins said that the programme sub-committee would work on this and bring back language that should be helpful back to the executive committee.

EHAIA Impact Assessment Summary (Doc. No. 14.1), EHAIA Impact Assessment – SLG Response (Doc. No. 14.2), and EHAIA Impact Assessment Report (Doc. No. 14.3)

The joint meeting of WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group in April 2016 strongly recommended a second WCC-EHAIA impact assessment to reflect on the achievements of the initiative for the period 2010-2016 and to highlight lessons learned, gaps and challenges. Singizi Consulting, South Africa was chosen for its experience in the field covered by WCC-EHAIA. The evaluators assessed WCC-EHAIA from the following angles: programmatic: outcomes and contribution to impact and from operational: structure, management, communication, and funding aspects. The evaluators' findings were presented from the perspectives of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. Positive aspects were affirmed. Gaps and challenges were identified and specific recommendations made.

The WCC staff leadership group studied the report and is making the following recommendations to the executive committee:

- the initiative be continued for the period 2018-2021
- In collaboration with IMD, WCC-EHAIA staff to immediately explore ways of using this report to scale up fundraising strategies among the churches, ecumenical partners and donors who have funded the initiative over the years as well as new opportunities.

Ecumenical Global Health Strategy (Doc. No. 15)

This document is a product of two consultations on Ecumenical Global Health Strategy in February in Maseru, Lesotho and in May 2017 in Geneva. The overall objective of this strategy is to promote health and wholeness for all by strengthening churches as healing communities. In the section on the background to the strategy, it gives an outline of theological perspectives on health and healing; and the WCC's health ministry. In the section on the Rationale for the Ecumenical Global Health Strategy, it connects with: Sustainable Development Goals call for 'Health for All'; The WCC document on *Together Towards Life: mission and evangelism in changing landscapes* where health and healing is understood as being central to the Christian mission; it lines Ecumenical Global Health Strategy with the Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document and the pilgrimage of justice and peace. For 2018-2021 it specifically aims:

- To promote scientific and ethical reflection on health matters from a Christian perspective
- To promote theological and biblical reflection on health and healing
- To promote the health-promoting churches concept
- To strengthen documentation of ecumenical health work
- To support advocacy, networking and capacity building for ecumenical engagement on global health

Dr Abuom commented on supporting advocacy. In Africa, 15% of budgets are supposed to be allocated to health. In order to be of help to member churches, this programme could provide information to national bodies on how they can fulfil the mandate of health through budgetary allocations. This includes medical insurance for women, children, and people with disabilities.

Mr Bueno de Faria offered thanks for this document. He saw the sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the introduction, but not in the strategies. He encouraged efforts to make connections.

Dr Tveit noted that this new strategy is the fruit of re-vitalizing this programme. This is getting attention from WHO, UNAIDS, and others. It is not only an internal business, but is also about how we represent all of the Christian health organizations and their relationships with the WHO. Christian associations represent 50% of health services. This is a key aspect for the WCC and it needs to be operationalized. The plan will be further strengthened and in this case, it is relevant to look at the communications strategy for these issues. It is about communicating to the churches what the issues are and also their potential.

Ms Pirri-Simonian appreciated that EHAIA is expanding its activities. She asked how member churches can also benefit from this programme. In the Middle East, for example, there are no health organizations; such services are provided by the member churches. There must be a deliberate way of contacting and empowering churches. It can also help them to connect with SDGs, as these are not really on the agenda for churches.

Celebration of the 70th anniversary (Doc. No. 21)

The document includes the principles and rationale behind activities intended to highlight the 70th anniversary of the WCC, and provides a presentation of key events, publications and other efforts organized both by the WCC staff and by the many member churches and partners around the world

interesting in marking the anniversary.

Dr Abuom shared her hope that some of our wise men and women would join in the celebration so that some of their wisdom can be harvested. Ms Glynn-Mackoul noted that the inclusion of the elders might be a helpful counter-balance to the focus on youth. Dr Tveit commented that he hopes this is a celebration where all generations will be present.

Ms Ejdersten said that they should work together to find the different voices from around the world. Part of the communications plan is to find 77 people from around the world: lay people, church people, and others. With regards to integration, the whole idea is to integrate the 70th anniversary into programme plans. They are looking at best practices and looking back on achievements.

Dr Watkins and Metropolitan Coorilos commented that at the programme sub-committee will also look at how the world mission conference will address the 70th anniversary.

Commissions and advisory groups 2017

Report of the 54th Meeting of the CCIA (Doc. No. 16.1)

Dr Quawas, a member of the CCIA, presented this report.

Document 16.1 is a summary report of the 54th meeting of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) which took place in 27 February-1 March 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Major outcomes of the 54th meeting included:

- a strategic planning process that determined key content that the CCIA will engage in from 2017-2021
- a decision to continue utilizing groups, since they are required by the CCIA by-laws, but also to consider ad-hoc projects, short-term initiatives, and other permutations as possible supplements for doing the work
- a re-organization of the five previous working groups into new themes and groupings
- a core group meeting date during the week of 25 September 2017, which will likely take place in Africa to reflect the PJP focus on that region
- the next full meeting of the CCIA will be during the week of 26 February 2018 in Colombia.

Gender Advisory Group Update (Doc. No. 16.2)

Dr Watkins shared that in response to the decisions of the central committee in June 2016 and the executive committee in June 2017, the report of the gender advisory group update (Doc. No. 16.2) highlights the following points: Oriental Orthodox in the membership of group; women's pilgrimages in Nigeria, Burundi, DRC and South Sudan; meetings with the Faith and Order commission, the Ecumenical Education and Formation (EEF) commission; and the reference group on human sexuality (RGHS). It also mentions about its next meeting with the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC) at the beginning of 2018.

The general secretary commented that inter-connections between commissions and advisory groups are made it is important to monitor how these interactions are prepared. There are different styles and different categories of participation. Dr Watkins noted that perhaps it would be appropriate to think about the lessons learned from these kinds of integration and working with different contexts within the WCC.

Report from EEF commission meeting (Doc. No. 16.3)

Dr Watkins reported on this programme area and noted that the document outlines how the EEF commission has affirmed the recommendations made to the central committee in 2016 regarding its

commitments to the body of work for which it is charged. The commission further continues to move forward five recommendations and corresponding follow-up mechanisms created at the 2015 meeting at the Bossey Institute.

Report from the ECHOS Commission on Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement (Doc. No. 16.4)

The document outlines the outcome of the ECHOS commission's meeting in Sibiu, Romania in August 2017. It further outlines recommendations for the executive committee, the central committee planning group, and the assembly planning group.

Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká (Czechoslovak Hussite Church), moderator of the ECHOS commission, reported on the commission's work. At their meeting, they spent a fruitful time together in common Spirit, strongly supported by WCC and local member churches. She noted that the document itself is divided into three parts: they described and formulated the ECHOS mandate, aims and functions. The agenda of this second full meeting was developed with kind WCC assistance and all commissioners actively participated in discussion and decision making on strategic directions of the commission. ECHOS also reflected on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace from their own individual contexts to the global. The document brings several proposals and recommendations into consideration and it will be discussed within the programme sub-committee.

She expressed the tremendous gratitude of the ECHOS members for the hospitality of local churches, the great input of Dr Sauca who brought wisdom and never ending patience, to Mr Albin Hillert designated by a communication team and especially to WCC staff Ms Carla Khijoyan, who helped with communication and better understanding of our role. ECHOS members also received with appreciation the news about new youth desk executive officer Ms Joy Eva Bohol, who is already in touch with ECHOS members.

Report of the 2017 Meeting of the Commission on Faith and Order (Doc. No. 16.5)

The document reviews and advances the on-going work undertaken by the commission through its three study groups – on Pilgrimage, Ecclesiology and Moral Discernment – and presents working plans for the coming years for the respective groups.

Document on Religion, Violence and Peace-Making: A Progress Report (Doc. No. 16.6)

Dr Watkins noted that the WCC reference group for interreligious dialogue and cooperation meeting in Nairobi in September scrutinised the document 'Religion, Violence and Peace-making' in detail, affirmed the depth and breadth of the document, worked on its restructuring and suggested additions. It recommends the document to the WCC for publication as a study resource, and wishes to encourage its dissemination as widely as possible.

Education for Peace in a Multi-religious World (Doc. No. 16.7)

Dr Watkins reported that this was elaborated jointly by the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue Vatican and the World Council of Churches. The purpose of this document is to encourage churches and Christian organizations to reflect on the structural roots of what has led to the disruption of peace in the world, and their own current practices and priorities in relation to education and peace-making. At the same time it is hoped that the document may assist a wider conversation involving followers of other religions, as well as social and political actors in our multi-religious world, taking into consideration specific historical and cultural contexts.

Following this overview of the various programme related documents, Dr Watson thanked the executive committee meeting for their patience. They wanted to present every document before they are considered more deeply in the programme sub-committee meeting.

Dr Abuom thanked everyone for their work and for presentation.

Bishop John White offered prayer to close this session.

6.2 ACTION ON THE REPORT OF THE PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session.

Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins began by thanking the programme sub-committee for their work. She noted that there were guests from the Palestinian community, as well as advisors at their sub-committee meeting, and they had a very thorough discussion. She offered a special word of appreciation from Dr Hutabarat-Lebang, who served as the rapporteur. She then read the report.

6.2.1 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (DOC. NO. 01)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to:

1. **Receive with appreciation the Report of the General Secretary and affirm the work of the general secretary and staff.**

2. **Request the general secretary to emphasize unity in its multifaceted and contextual dimensions by continuing to**
   a. **Ensure emphasis on unity in the implementation of all programmatic work;**
   b. **Encourage churches to be actively involved in the pilgrimage of justice and peace in their own context;**
   c. **Strengthen the diakonia programme and the collaboration with ACT Alliance.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.2 FOLLOW UP ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DECISIONS ON PROGRAMME WORK (DOC. NO. 08)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation the update on follow up to the executive committee recommendations on programmatic work (Doc. No. 08) with the following comments

1. **Develop mechanisms to follow up the WCC programme regarding concern on children by requesting churches to share their experience in the area of child protection;**

2. **Provide time in future executive and central committee meetings for members to share how they and their churches have followed up programmes and activities of the fellowship.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.3 PLAN FOR WCC INVOLVEMENT FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ISRAEL AND PALESTINE (DOC. NO. 13 REV)

Dr Watkins said that there were representatives from the Palestinian community, who presented their concerns in-depth to the sub-committee. These were extended conversations and the sub-committee is bringing their understandings of the concerns expressed by their guests.

> The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive as revised the Plan for WCC Involvement for Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine (Doc. No. 13 rev) with appreciation, and approve the programme acknowledging the urgency of the situation and the need for justice and peace in the region.

Dr Quawas preferred that his concrete recommendation be accepted, as follows:

> The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive as revised the Plan for WCC Involvement for Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine (doc. No. 13 rev) with appreciation, and ask the general secretary to forward it for reflection to the NCCOP so to be presented in the executive committee and the central committee in June 2018 acknowledging the urgency of the situation and the need for justice and peace in the region.

While he understood that there were two representatives from the National Coalition of Christian Organizations in Palestine (NCCOP) and other Palestinian partners with the sub-committee, he stated that there is no unanimity within the NCCOP. For this reason he would suggest that the Christian organizations in Jerusalem be given a chance to look at the revised text, comment, and then the document would come back to the central committee for approval.

The general secretary reminded the committee of the process so far. In the first half of this year, there were several discussions about how to develop this and consultations needed. WCC had met with the NCCOP in April for this purpose. In June, there was a big consultation in Beit Sahour where the WCC received an open letter (in the appendix to the document). Based on this an updated plan with objectives was developed. This was then presented to a meeting on 19 October where everyone involved in the PIEF group had seen a draft. They had the chance to discuss it and forward reflections in writing. Some forwarded their reflections and these were included in the proposal before you. In addition, they invited some people to this meeting to discuss a plan. They wanted to have an inclusive approach. There was also quite an extensive discussion in the programme sub-committee on this issue.

Dr Tveit reflected that it is important for the executive committee to decide on plans for the work in 2018. He would therefore propose adding: “Based on this plan, there should be conversations with partners to see if there is a need to revise the plan.” That way, we would have a workable plan, and further revisions can be made later based on further consultations with the partners.

Dr Abuom affirmed that decisions about programme is made by the executive but observed that we need to be alert to the sensitivities of certain programmes and regions. Dr Phiri clarified that the activities cannot happen if the executive committee has not approved the document. Staff implement what is approved by the executive committee.

Metropolitan Nifon noted that the only difference would be that the executive committee receives the plan, and postpones approval after the NCCOP reflects on this plan, which will be approved by the executive and central committees in June 2018. Dr Quawas suggested that an addition could also be made as follows: “all activities can continue until there is the final approval in June 2018”. After some further discussion, a final recommendation was proposed:

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive as revised the Plan for WCC Involvement for Justice and Peace in Israel and Palestine with appreciation, and ask the general secretary to forward it for reflection to the NCCOP and the member churches so as to be presented in the executive committee and the central committee in June 2018 acknowledging the urgency of the situation and the need for justice and peace in the region, asking the general secretary to implement the plans as found in Doc. No. 13 rev.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.4 ECUMENICAL GLOBAL HEALTH STRATEGY (DOC. NO. 15)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive the document with appreciation and**

2. **Request the following amendments:**
   a. **To add on p. 1 last paragraph a reference to Sustainable Development Goals and especially goal number 3.**
   b. **To add on p. 7 item 5 on advocacy the following paragraph: "Advocacy by WCC member churches among other activities would include monitoring, budget allocations and implementations for health services in their countries."**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.5 CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY (DOC. NO. 21)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the plan for the WCC 70th anniversary and to**

2. **Revise the plan to include the following:**
   a. **More inclusive storytelling with many voices from the living fellowship and important milestones in the WCC (e.g., founding, 1980s with South Africa, presence in the Holy Land, etc.);**
   b. **Review the plan for publications to have a broader perspective but also include all previous general secretaries and other major contributors to the work and fellowship of the WCC;**
   c. **Include the ecumenical journeys of the churches in the Global South e.g, Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church**
   d. **On the occasion of the 70th anniversary celebrations, include fundraising opportunities to support the Green Village;**

3. **Request the general secretary to:**
   a. **Reflect on how to combine the discussions on unity with the 70th anniversary;**
   b. **Write a third letter to the member churches and inform them about the plans and invite more churches to take part in the anniversary.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.6 UPDATE ON PILGRIMAGE OF JUSTICE AND PEACE (DOC. NO. 04)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the Update on Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.**

2. **Request the general secretary to:**
   a. **Review the work of the theological study group in the light of the unity discussion in the executive committee;**
   b. **Reflect on how to use the pilgrimage of justice and peace for deeper formation of the fellowship.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.7 SECOND PROGRESS REPORT OF THE MID-TERM EVALUATION TEAM (DOC. NO. 05), AND PROPOSED REVISION WCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2018-2021 (DOC. NO. 06)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation the Second Progress Report of the Mid-Term Evaluation Team.

The programme sub-committee noted the information from the general secretary that Doc. No. 06 Revision WCC Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 is still in process of being revised and corrected. The revision of the WCC Strategic Plan will not be presented before the full report of the Mid-Term Evaluation Team is completed.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.8 ECUMENICAL DIAKONIA STUDY DOCUMENT UPDATE (DOC. NO. 11.) AND ECUMENICAL DIAKONIA DOCUMENT STUDY GUIDE (DOC. NO. 11.1)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the update and the Ecumenical Diakonia Document Study Guide, and affirms the general direction;**

2. **Encourage the general secretariat to continue the efforts to distribute the document and in partnership with member churches and ecumenical partners to make it available in various languages.**

3. **Ensure that distribution should include wider groups such as church leaders, ecumenical officers, diaconal institutions of the churches and other key partners.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.9 JOINT PROGRAMME AND FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING (DOC. NO. 09)

The programme sub-committee and the finance sub-committee reaffirm the existing criteria for prioritization and description of WCC ecumenical initiatives.

The sub-committees recommend to the executive committee to

1. Create clear frameworks for evaluations of ecumenical initiatives and all projects and evaluate all current ecumenical initiatives and projects that have not been recently evaluated;

2. Receive the following additional guidelines of prioritisation:
    a. Every project must have a start date, a schedule of evaluation, and an expected date of conclusion. Adequate personnel and programming resources must be identified.
    b. The evaluation should include answers to the following questions:
        i. Have we achieved the outcome of the project, completely, partially, or not at all?
        ii. Future development of the project
            a) Are member churches able to assume responsibility for the project?
            b) Should the project become part of the Council programmes?
            c) Should the project become independent?

Bishop Dr Swenson noted that from the finance sub-committee perspective the last point was too detailed. One suggestion is that it could be presented for review at the next executive committee meeting, and then the committee would discern what evaluation would be. They need criteria for the initiatives included in an appendix to the strategic plan. She asked Ms Dykes to speak about this more.

Ms Dykes stated that there are also concerns about additional guidelines without stating what the source document from which this prioritization occurs. The sub-committee referred to Doc. No. 8 from the June 2015 executive committee meeting, which already includes personnel and programme resources, which are mentioned as being new guideline. There is also a concern about stating that every project must have a start date and dated conclusion, when the strategic plan identities 3 project modalities: i) mid-term projects which run throughout the 4 years, ii) ecumenical initiatives, and iii) special short-turn projects.

The committee also discussed the meaning of “projects”, and agreed to change the language of “projects” to “ecumenical initiatives”. They also discussed the integration of ecumenical initiatives into the WCC. After further consultation between the sub-committees, the executive committee agreed on the following formulation:

The sub-committees recommend to the executive committee to ask the general secretary to

1. **Create clear frameworks for evaluations of ecumenical initiatives and all projects and develop a schedule to evaluate all current ecumenical initiatives and projects that have not been recently evaluated;**
2. **Receive the following additional guidelines:**
    a. **Acknowledging that there are three modalities of projects in the strategic plan, every project must have a start date, a schedule of evaluation, and, as appropriate, an expected date of conclusion.**
    b. **The evaluation should include answers to the following questions:**
        i. **Have we achieved the outcome of the project, completely, partially, or not at all?**
        ii. **Future development of the ecumenical initiative**
            d) **Are member churches able to assume responsibility for the ecumenical initiative?**
            e) **Could they become integrated differently within the Council programme structure?**

f) Could they become independent?

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.10 WCC-EHAIA Impact Assessment Summary (Doc. No. 14.1), Report (Doc. No. 14.3) and Management response (Doc. No. 14.2)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation the WCC-EHAIA Impact Assessment Summary, report and management response

Concerning the general direction, the sub-committee advises that a base line study to establish the foundation for evidence-based evaluation for the period of 2018-2021 is developed.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.11 WCC-Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme on Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) Baseline study (Doc. No. 12.1) and the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 for WCC-EAPPI (Doc. No. 12.2)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation and approve the baseline study and the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 for WCC-EAPPI, with particular appreciation for the gender strategy.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.12 Communications Update (Doc. No. 17)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the Communications Update and the general direction presented;**

2. **Request the general secretary to prepare a Communication Strategy for 2018-2021 to be presented at the executive committee in June 2018 with special focus on the living fellowship.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.13 Conference on World Mission and Evangelism Update Report (Doc. No. 10)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation and approve the Report on the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism including the general direction of the programme planning and participation presented in the report;**

2. **Request the general secretary, in cooperation with the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, to:**

a. **Connect the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism more visibly to the WCC 70th anniversary with special focus on the role of mission in the fellowship;**
b. **Strengthen the communication about the programme including pre-conference events.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.14 Report from the ECHOS Commission on Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement (Doc. No. 16.4)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the Report from the ECHOS Commission on Youth Engagement in the Ecumenical Movement;**

2. **Request the general secretary to explore new ways for involvement of young participants in the ecumenical movement especially taking into consideration visa difficulties.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.15 Report of the 54th Meeting of the CCIA (Doc. No. 16.1)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation the Report of the 54th Meeting of the CCIA.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.16 Report from the Gender Advisory Group (Doc. No. 16.2)

The executive committee noted that the language of "project" in 2(e) in the original recommendation was not clear, and clarified that this referred to the Just Community for Women and Men. They amended the wording and agreed on the following formulation.

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the Report from the Gender Advisory Group and affirm the general direction.**

2. **Recommends to the general secretary to:**
   a. **Ensure adequate preparation for conversation between the Gender Advisory Group and other consultative bodies;**
   b. **Establish a staff team to support the work of the Gender Advisory Group;**
   c. **Ensure that the Gender Advisory Group fulfils its mandate as a reference group to the Just Community of Women and Men;**
   d. **Review of objectives, strategies and activities of the Just Community of Women and Men for the period of 2018-2021;**
   e. **Develop a fundraising strategy for Just Community of Women and Men.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.17 REPORT FROM EEF COMMISSION MEETING (DOC. NO. 16.3)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the report from EEF commission meeting;**

2. **Request the general secretary to facilitate the development of the WCC alumni network (Bossey, GETI, Internship, Stewards, etc.) and invite participation from the wider ecumenical communities (e.g., WCRC GETI, WSCF, etc.) who may have similar networks.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.18 REPORT OF THE 2017 MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON FAITH AND ORDER (DOC. NO. 16.5)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to receive with appreciation the Report of the 2017 Meeting of the Commission on Faith and Order.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.19 DOCUMENT ON RELIGION, VIOLENCE AND PEACE-MAKING: A PROGRESS REPORT (DOC. NO. 16.6)

The programme sub-committee recommends to the executive committee to

1. **Receive with appreciation the progress report on the Document on Religion, Violence and Peace-Making;**

2. **Request the general secretary to publish the document as a study document.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.20 DOCUMENT ON RELIGION, EDUCATION FOR PEACE IN A MULTI-RELIGIOUS WORLD, A CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE (DOC. NO. 16.7)

The programme sub-committee recommends that the executive committee

1. **Affirm the document's content and direction;**

2. **Once the text is finalized, authorizes the general secretary to approve the final text for distribution to the member churches.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.21 PROGRAMME PLANS 2018 (DOC. NO. 07.2)

The executive committee discussed the phrase "local churches" in the original recommendation for (a), and clarified to what this referred. They agreed on the following formulation.

a. **To assume responsibility in partnership with member churches, especially churches in the region, for prayer, worship, and spiritual life at COP 24 in the framework of the PJP (D1, T2 and T5, G106).**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

b. **A call for Orthodox Women – gathering of Orthodox Women**

(T3) – Strengthening Orthodox women's participation in the ecumenical movement in the context of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women

Objectives:

- **Provide a forum for Orthodox women to share their history, challenges and opportunities while representing their churches in ecumenical contexts**
- **Facilitate ecumenical formation and continued participation of Orthodox women in the wider ecumenical movement**

Proposed methodology:

- **Use the World Mission Conference in March 2018 and the WCC Central Committee meeting in June 2018 to gather the Orthodox women delegates, participants, members of CC, members of WCC commissions, GETI students, etc. and provide a space for common reflection and discussion on ways to promote Orthodox women's contribution and participation in the ecumenical movement.**
- **Organize a WCC consultation on the role and contributions of Orthodox Women to the ecumenical movement in 2019.**

Ask the WCC women orthodox staff together with the Programme Executive for community of women and men and the programme executive for youth to facilitate the implementation of the above mentioned initiatives.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

The executive committee then conversed about the introductory paragraphs about racism. They supported the programmatic direction about racism; however, wanted to add language that referred to 2018 as the 50th anniversary of the Programme to Combat Racism and as the year of commemoration of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. They agreed on the following formulation.

a. Urgent concern about racism

The programme sub-committee spent considerable time discussing racism, noting that racism and xenophobia were highlighted for action by the churches at the central committee meeting in Trondheim in 2016; and the recent hearing on racism and human rights hosted by the WCC.

Lamentably, the signs of our time show us that racism is on the rise in different forms in different regions; in forms of open manifestation; in new forms of discrimination and dehumanization; present in societies, churches and ecumenical bodies.

In our history as a fellowship of churches, the WCC declared racism a sin and its theological justification heresy. This was expressed programmatically through the Programme to Combat Racism, launched in 1968, the very year in which noted American civil rights leader Rev. Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. was murdered. As people of faith we know that recovery from sin

requires confession, repentance, transformation by grace and expressed as new life in accordance with God's will. The work is not complete.

Racism should become a more visible priority for action by the churches. The WCC has a unique role to play in convening and inviting churches, ecumenical partners, people of other faiths, civil society and governments to work together to name and address racism today.

Programmatically this requires developing an integrated and comprehensive approach that highlights how the WCC is addressing racism as a faith-based and human rights-based issue of significant magnitude.

This could be strengthened by convening a round table of churches and partners to develop synergies and strengthen cooperation, for example (not exhaustive) the Korean churches in Japan along with the Japanese churches work on racism and hate speech, the Council for World Mission and its work addressing the legacy and persistence of slavery, the churches in the United States and their response to racism, the churches in Europe and their response to migration and refugees, etc.

The programme sub-committee recommends that the executive committee:

a. **Affirm that addressing racism ecumenically be a priority for the work of the WCC from 2018 to 2021;**

b. **Acknowledging that there is programmatic work already planned for 2018, requests that a proposal for a comprehensive implementation be brought to the executive committee for review in June 2018; and**

c. **Propose that racism be considered as a main thematic focus for the pilgrimage of justice and peace in 2019.**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

6.2.22 Proposal of the Programme Sub-Committee to the Staffing, Personnel and Nominations

The programme sub-committee discussed as a question of the mid-term evaluation where the issues of the overall functioning of the commissions should be discussed and addressed the following open questions to the governance group:

a. The programme sub-committee asks for a review of the frequency of meetings to ensure the necessary continuity, effectiveness and cohesiveness in the work of the commissions as well as in the interrelationship between the commissions and the whole work of the WCC.

b. With regard to the regular absence of commissioners from commission meetings, specific regulations should be established to secure the commission work.

c. Strengthening the cooperation between commissions by appointing liaisons to other commissions. The programme sub-committee affirms the proposal of Faith and Order to appoint commissioners who will liaison with other commissions and recommends that for all commissions, acknowledging that ECHOS already has this practice.

Dr Abuom noted that this section was already approved and asked if it could be acknowledged. The executive committee agreed to this.

The general secretary informed the committee that Mr Ivars Kupcis, WCC Communications Officer, was detained in the airport in Israel on 22 November. This is a concern for the WCC and this work as a whole. He asked if the CCIA director could share more about the situation. Mr Prove responded that the staff person was in detention the prior evening. He is in good spirits, and is currently on his way back to Geneva. This incident will be added to a growing list of WCC people who were detained and/or deported while travelling to Israel.

Ms Ejdersten added that there were both outgoing Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) and incoming EAs in Jerusalem; she is trying to be in communication with them. She will be travelling to Jerusalem at the end of this meeting and there will be a lot of media coverage in Jerusalem the following day.

She noted that already eight press releases were issued from this committee meeting. One was done before the meeting, and they have also released all of the public issues statements. She is currently preparing another press release; however, she would prefer that it is released on Monday, because then it will get more focus. In the meantime, people can focus on the current releases about public issues. It was agreed that the press release should be issued on the Monday or Tuesday following the meeting.

The document as a whole was approved by consensus.

7. Public Issues

7.1 First Presentation on Public Issues

Dr Abuom moderated a hearing session. She invited Mr Prove to speak about public issues.

Mr Prove first invited the executive committee to review the compilation of public issues that have been issued so far, and commended it so that people were aware of the range of issues listed in Actions on Public Issues (Doc. No. 2) that were noted since our last meeting. He noted that a number of issues were proposed for action for this executive committee meeting and that four prepared texts are available. He shared there were other texts that were prepared for this meeting that were later withdrawn. They needed to re-schedule some of the more substantial and detailed texts, in order to address issues that are of most urgency now.

The issues to be discussed, and the texts prepared, are:

- Situation on the Korean peninsula
- Situation in Northern Iraq
- Amazon under threat
- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and on 2017 Nobel Peace Prize

There are also two additional texts that will be prepared:

- Situation in Mindanao, the Philippines, and the detention of Bishop Morales. Mr Prove noted that legal proceedings have been afoot, and there is a valid concern to not pre-judge these proceedings. There will be hearing on the 23rd of this month, and WCC does not want to impact this on a negative way.
- The current situation for churches in the Holy Land, and particularly in Jerusalem

The executive committee received the list of public issues. Dr Abuom asked that the committee consider the new proposals for public issues.

Mr Bueno de Faria commented that COP23 had just concluded and that there is a significant and urgent issue related to churches and the Council of Churches in the Pacific. With sea level rising they are suffering and people are dying. He shared that this is related to the text proposed about the Amazon and in that statement it will be good to mention this. He also noted that we might also want to speak about loss and damage from the Paris climate change agreement. Secondly, he noted that we could take advantage of this gathering to offer solidarity and support for Zimbabwe Council of Churches. He shared that the ZCC has made a statement, and ACT Alliance would like to make a statement together with the WCC.

Dr Abuom asked the general secretary to speak about the text on religion and violence, which was supposed to come back to the executive committee. Dr Tveit replied that they have been working on a document, and it is not seen as a new policy. They are continuing this work, will finalize the text and then they will present it for information to the executive committee.

Bishop Samuel Azariah followed up on the issue of religion and violence, and wondered if a proper policy document will come to the next meeting. Dr Tveit responded that it is important to stimulate the reflection in all our churches about the connection between religion and violence. He also felt that the WCC needs to help people reflect about this in their own contexts. The general secretary then shared that if too many statements and positions about certain countries and issues are made then we will run into trouble. For example, how to include the issue of anti-Semitism without raising 10 or 15 other issues? If we make a statement about anti-Semitism, will it not create more problems than it will solve? If this issue is combined with religion and violence it will become too complicated. Is there a need to address other issues related to religion and violence as a policy? He affirmed that these issues are always on the agenda and specific issues are addressed in different contexts. He is not sure if it is helpful to make general policy statements about religion and violence or how best to deal with this as a policy issue. This has to be on the agenda for the central committee and the executive in the future.

Mr Prove reminded the committee that the central committee statement from 2015 on religion and violence was a very substantive document in its own right. Work in this area continues to draw inspiration from that document. The primary thrust of that statement was to invite member churches to engage with this discourse or concern and to reflect on it, and to act based on those reflections. That document in particular warrants further follow up.

Dr Abuom noted that rather than a policy, the leadership is proposing that the text be a follow up from the central committee document, in the mode of a study document. This will be discussed further in the reference group, but, this direction can also come up in the public issues sub-committee.

Later in the meeting, Dr Abuom noted that they will ask the public issues sub-committee to add a minute about the situation in Zimbabwe.

7.2 ACTION ON THE REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ISSUES SUB-COMMITTEE

Bishop Dr Swenson moderated a decision session. Metropolitan Nifon presented the report; Mr Prove read the draft statement and the minute.

7.2.1 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (DOC NO. 01)

The public issues sub-committee received with appreciation the report of the general secretary, and discussed several subjects raised in the report. The public issues sub-committee particularly appreciated the general secretary's reflections on his visit to churches and partners in the Pacific region, highlighting the threats posed both by climate change, and by the impact of nuclear weapon tests, to the people and communities of the region. Both issues are high on the public issues agenda

and the general secretary's visit and report serves to highlight the immediacy and existential nature of these threats.

The public issues welcomes and affirms the general secretary's emphasis throughout his report on promoting church unity in the pilgrimage of justice and peace, in different contexts and regions.

7.2.2 ACTIONS ON PUBLIC ISSUES (DOC. NO. 02)

The public issues sub-committee reviewed the summary of Actions on Public Issues (Doc. No. 02), and refers it to the executive committee for information.

Among the many important actions summarized in the document, the public issues sub-committee highlights the following:

- 20-22 June 2017: WCC "Consultation on 50 Years of Occupation and the Ecumenical Response", held in Beit Sahour, Palestine.
- 14 July 2017: Launch of Plan of Action for Religious Leaders and Actors to Prevent Incitement to Violence that Could Lead to Atrocity Crimes, developed over two years of intensive consultations at the global and regional levels organized by the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC), the KAICIID Dialogue Centre, and the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.
- 11 September 2017: Regional conference with the theme "Statelessness in the European Context: Prevention, Reduction and Protection" organised by WCC and Bread for the World in Berlin.
- 22-28 September 2017: WCC first solidarity visit in more than ten years to the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahedo Church, pledging to pray and work for peace between Eritrea and its neighbour Ethiopia as they attempt to resolve a border dispute.
- 28 September 2017: WCC/NCCCUSA Hearing on Racism, Discrimination, Afrophobia and Xenophobia.
- 3-6 October 2017: Ecumenical Strategic Forum on Diakonia and Sustainable Development convened by WCC, to strengthen ecumenical collaboration on diakonia and development, stimulate strategies for leveraging national impact and provide a road map for the ecumenical accompaniment of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
- 11-13 October 2017: WCC Conference on Just Peace with Earth, Iceland, held in conjunction with the Arctic Circle Assembly 2017, and with HAH Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I delivering a keynote address at the opening of the Arctic Circle Assembly on 13 October.
- 20 October 2017: Communiqué on Sustainable Peace in Burundi, issued by a consultation organised by the WCC and the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect, in Arusha, Tanzania.
- The numerous actions taken in relation to the situation on the Korean peninsula.
- Intensive engagement by WCC in negotiations for the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted on 7 July and opened for signature and ratification on 20 September.

7.2.3 STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA (DOC. NO. 3.1 REV)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft statement on the situation on the Korean peninsula, taking into account recent escalation of tensions in the region, and calling for tension reduction initiatives and prayers for peace in the region. The draft had been prepared by staff and had been the subject of consultation with and input from members of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and other stakeholders.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-the-situation-on-the-korean-peninsula.

7.2.4 STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN NORTHERN IRAQ (DOC. NO. 3.3 REV)

The committee first had general discussion about the statement.

Some editorial changes were offered by members of the executive committee as the group went through the document paragraph by paragraph.

Archbishop Aykazian spoke about the Christians who are living northern Iraq, the majority of which are living in camps. He also shared that in all of the areas where Christians used to live the majority of the businesses have been occupied by local Sunnis. He asked that we appeal to the government of Iraq not only to give back their houses, but also the businesses they have in the region. They would like to continue discussing what they as churches can do to push the Iraqi government to not only re-locate these people, but also to give their businesses back, and to some extent, to compensate them.

Dr Quawas stated that we need to emphasize that this extremist entity needs to be removed from Iraq and said that we are not speaking about people but rather about an organization.

In the last section, Mr Prove suggested adding a sentence, which would become the second call, that reads "Urges to Iraqi authorities to ensure that the homes and business of those displaced are restored to them"; he stated that this would respond to the earlier question raised by Archbishop Aykazian.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the revised draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-the-situation-in-northern-iraq.

7.2.5 STATEMENT ON THE AMAZON UNDER THREAT (DOC. NO. 3.4 REV)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft statement on the Amazon under threat, particularly responding to recent initiatives by the Congress and Government of Brazil to abolish environmental protections and to open areas of the Amazon Basin to extractive industries and commercial exploitation. The draft had been prepared by staff members directly responsible for WCC's work for environmental justice, and had been the subject of consultation with and input from members of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and other stakeholders.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the revised draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-the-amazon-under-threat.

7.2.6 STATEMENT ON THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND THE 2017 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE (DOC. NO. 3.5 REV)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft statement on the Treaty on the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize. The WCC through the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs has been extensively involved in negotiations for the new treaty, as a participant in the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize laureate. The draft was prepared by staff and had been the subject of consultation with and input from members of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and other stakeholders.

Mr Prove read the draft statement and some editorial changes were suggested by the committee.

Ms Pirri-Simonian offered general comments about public issues statements. She wondered if they directly address any follow up or action, what kind of empowerment is given to local churches in the countries that the statements are addressing, and what kind of advocacy the WCC and CCIA is doing to assist human rights in other countries. Her concern is that otherwise, they become simple statements.

Mr Prove explained that the WCC has been programmatically engaged for efforts for nuclear disarmament since the early 1980s. It was involved in the negotiations for the treaty itself. WCC staff and members of the CCIA, such as Dr Emily Welty, the CCIA vice-moderator, have been involved in this. This work will continue, and now that the treaty has been adopted, the work will be with member churches to urge the governments who have not signed to do that as soon as possible. The initial focus is on the African continent, and there is a process to approach African governments with regard to this treaty. They are also taking engaging this in the human rights area of the UN; for example, they have persuaded the government of Guatemala to ask this question of every country who is under review under the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The focus of the member churches, and their role, is encompassed in the second paragraph. This work is on-going and continuous.

Bishop Dr Swenson was part of the WCC pilgrimage to Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in August 2015 on the anniversary of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bomb attacks. They met with survivors and it was very moving. All were from member churches from countries who have nuclear weapons; that group will be very happy with the statement because it will continue the work in this area.

Metropolitan Nifon shared that Ms Pirri-Simonian's concern is also noted in the fourth and fifth recommendation. Ms Pirri-Simonian clarified that her question was for all and in general and not just nuclear weapons specifically. Dr Tveit explained all of these texts have been prepared at the request of member churches, and the texts are used in various ways. They also receive a great deal of publicity about the WCC statements.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the revised draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons-and-on-2017-nobel-peace-prize-awarded-to-the-international-campaign-to-abolish-nuclear-weapons.

7.2.7 STATEMENT ON JERUSALEM AND STATUS QUO (DOC. NO. 3.6)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft statement on Jerusalem and Status Quo, in light of concerns presented by HB Patriarch Theophilos III on behalf of the heads of churches in Jerusalem relating to the actions of radical Jewish settlers groups, policies of the Government of Israel, and legislative initiatives affecting the historic Status Quo arrangements. The draft was prepared by staff and had been the subject of consultation with and input from other stakeholders in the region.

Some editorial changes were suggested.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the revised draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-jerusalem-and-status-quo.

7.2.8 STATEMENT ON THE DETENTION OF BISHOP CARLOS MORALES, AND THE SITUATION IN MINDANAO, THE PHILIPPINES (DOC. NO. 3.2 REV)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft statement on the detention of Bishop Carlos Morales, and the situation in Mindanao, the Philippines. This statement follows Bishop Morales' arrest on 11 May 2017 and subsequent continuous detention, and concern about this situation by the public issues sub-committee during the executive committee's June meeting. The draft was prepared by staff and had been the subject of consultation with and input from members of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs and other stakeholders.

Dr Quawas asked a question of clarification: is Bishop Carlos Morales in jail? Mr Prove responded that the bishop is indeed in jail, and he may not even qualify for bail at the moment.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the revised draft statement for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/statement-on-the-detention-of-bishop-carlos-morales-and-the-situation-in-mindanao-philippines.

7.2.9 MINUTE ON THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE (DOC. NO. 3.7)

The public issues sub-committee received and considered a draft minute on the situation in Zimbabwe in light of very recent developments in Zimbabwe leading to the resignation of President Robert Mugabe on 21 November 2017. The draft was prepared by staff, based especially on the joint statement issued on 15 November 2017 by Zimbabwe Council of Churches, the Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe.

Dr Abuom shared that the Zimbabwe Council of Churches is meeting on 24 November to imagine the Zimbabwe that they want. They are asking for prayers. The statement, therefore, is quite timely.

The executive committee agreed on some editorial changes.

The public issues sub-committee recommends the draft minute for adoption by the executive committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus. The full statement is found online at: http://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/amman-november-2017/minute-on-the-situation-in-zimbabwe.

The executive committee then approved the entire report of the public issues sub-committee by consensus.

As a final notation, Metropolitan Nifon shared that all of the reports were prepared by staff, with contributions from the executive committee. He thanked the staff and the members of the committee.

8. Staffing, Personnel, and Nominations

8.1 First Presentation on Staffing, Personnel, and Nominations

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson moderated a hearing session. She opened the session with prayer.

Mission and proselytism in multi-Christian contexts: Recommendations for ethical witness (Doc. No.18)

Fr Prof. Dr Sauca presented this report, and an overview of the draft statement. He noted they have the option of signing it along with the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) and the evangelicals. The evangelicals might be ready to sign it. The PCPCU may sign it by the end of the year if the WCC will sign it.

The WCC staff leadership group has looked at this document and agrees with its general direction. The executive committee is asked to discuss the document, affirm its content and direction and, once the document is finalized, authorize the general secretary to approve it on behalf of the WCC.

Membership Matters (Doc. No. 19)

This report on membership matters will go to the sub-committee for action.

Nominations (Doc. No. 20)

This report on nominations will go to the sub-committee for action. Rev. Dr Tveit noted that an additional nomination from the EKD had been received and that it would also be forwarded to the sub-committee.

WCC Building Project Steering Committee

Bishop Dr Swenson moderated a decision session.

Dr Tveit noted that there would be a meeting on the WCC building project during the executive committee, scheduled to take place before the whole executive committee receives the report from the sub-committees. He therefore asked that the nominations appointments to the WCC Building Project Steering Committee that are proposed be made in plenary so that the mandate for which they meet is clear.

Dr Tveit read the following proposal, for decision:

> WCC Building Project Steering Committee
> - Following the resignation of Rev. Laurent Schlumberger (Eglise protestante unie de France) from the committee, Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) has been named to replace him.
> - Following the resignation of Bishop Eva Brunne (Church of Sweden) from the committee, Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd (Church of Sweden) has been named to replace her.

Following a request the general secretary said that the information on the other members and the expertise within the steering committee would be shared with the committee.

Dr Tveit summarized the understanding that the executive committee will appoint these two names to the WCC Building Project Steering Committee. But, when the sub-committee meets, it will look at

the committee as a whole to see if there are missing competencies that could be added to the committee membership.

The executive committee approved these two names by consensus.

Ms Pirri-Simonian asked, since it is a building project in Geneva, have there been efforts to include people from Geneva and from Switzerland? Dr Tveit shared that the committee membership is made up of people from the central committee. Bishop White observed that perhaps it would also be helpful to have people from the local area as advisors. The general secretary confirmed that this has already been the case, and that will continue to be the case moving forward.

Audit committee:

Bishop Dr Swenson moderated a hearing session. She also noted that an additional member is needed on the audit committee.

Dr Tveit explained that Bishop Bosse-Huber has resigned as a member from the audit committee. Dr Quawas will no longer take part as he is an outgoing executive committee member. The audit committee is appointed by the central committee, however, they are asking for interim appointments from now until the next central committee so that they have a full audit committee to work over the next six months. This sub-committee will bring proposal back to the executive committee about how to deal with these appointments.

Dr Quawas noted that according to the rules, we need two people from the executive committee to be members of the audit committee, and in total there should be 5 or 6 members on the committee. Over the past several years, however, there were only four people on the committee, and one of those had resigned. He stated that this issue must be corrected with suggestions from the general secretary. The new terms should be nominated, and also additional experts, so that if one is absent, the committee can still function well. In the next executive committee, they can make proposals to the nominations committee of the central committee to finalize this committee's membership until the next assembly.

It was agreed to refer this additional matter to the nominations sub-committee.

Celebration of the 70th Anniversary (Doc. No. 21)

Bishop Dr Swenson noted that the executive committee is asked to review the activities planned for the WCC 70th anniversary, offer their advice and confirm the approach.

Central Committee 2018 Plenaries (Doc. No. 22 and Doc. No. 22.1)

The general secretary offered an update on plans for the central committee meeting in June 2018. The next central committee meeting will be in Geneva. They have been asked to look at hotels that are lower in cost. As a result, people will be staying at Bossey and near to Bossey. Most people will be at the same hotel. The location means that on Sunday for the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the WCC, they will go to Bossey.

There was one question raised from the moderator of CWME about whether the reporting of the mission conference could be more than a report in the business session. He thinks that they could discuss this, particularly as something that can fit into another plenary. He suggested that it could be perhaps part of the plenary on unity, or part of the plenary on PJP. He will therefore ask the sub-committee to look at this and bring their recommendation back to the executive committee.

In the discussion of this report, Dr Abuom pointed out that in the ECHOS report, they have requested that there are voices of young people in the plenaries. She hopes that this is taken care of.

She also shared that another concern is the number of plenaries. There has been a feeling that the plenaries are presented by a few people, but they are not really engaging all people on the central committee. The more plenaries we have, the more disarming it can be for committee members. She does not know how we will address and balance this.

Dr Tveit noted that we made some progress at the central committee meeting in June 2016. He commented that there are other methodologies that can better engage people, and they can further explore this for the upcoming meeting. He shared that it is important that the meeting involves members of the central committee. They still need to have important issues and business to discuss. The purpose of central committee is to raise an agenda for the day, and give leadership for the whole council, and for the ecumenical movement. It is wise to have plenaries with themes, but we need to work further on the methodology.

Metropolitan Coorilos offered his thanks. Initially, he was disappointed that there was no proposed plenary for CWME. He raised this point because the last time they had a mission plenary at a central committee meeting was in 2012 in Crete. There has not been one since then and this is too long a gap. From a historical perspective, there has been a mission plenary in every central committee meeting following the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism. If we do not have a mission plenary to reflect on the outcome and the impact of the mission conference in Arusha, then this would be a shame. If it is possible to get a full plenary on mission and evangelism, then he would be very grateful.

Thanks were offered for this clarification and for this further background.

Report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (Doc. No. 23)

Bishop Simo Peura, co-moderator of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (PCCC), introduced the report. He noted that the PCCC had their last meeting 2-6 October 2017 in Rhodes, Greece. He shared that there were seven major areas of discussion raised when they met including the Faith and Order Commission, consensus, preparations for the 11th assembly, membership, “fair and adequate” representation, constitutional matters and prayer and “common prayer” in the ecumenical movement.

The next meeting of the PCCC will take place in May 2018 and will focus on developing concrete strategies to encourage member churches to compose “fair and adequate” delegations for the assembly. Several other items are recommended for consideration and further discussion: constitutional matters, assembly preparations, and membership matters, especially related to suspended churches, among other matters.

Dr Tveit clarified that, for the moment, there are no proposals for any constitutional changes. The question is how to provide it in due time before the assembly. The sub-committee will have to raise the issue. It will need to go to the central committee before it goes to the assembly.

Rev. Dr Kamba Kasongo asked about the suspended member church, the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by His special Envoy Simon Kimbangu. The general secretary reported briefly that it had not been possible to hold a meeting yet but that one was scheduled for April or May 2018. He added that this is a new experience for the council and that the questions of how a suspension should be managed will be a matter for the central committee to decide. There shall be contacts with a suspended church to talk about the suspension and to work on improving relations. Bishop Dr Swenson added that at the PCCC meeting, they had an extensive conversation about this, and tried to separate out the specific case from the broader context of the rules in general.

Assembly Preparations Update (Doc. 24)

Dr Tveit noted that this report was for information. During the Bossey executive committee meeting in June 2017, presentations were received from both venue locations. The Dutch Reformed Church (NGK) and the Uniting Reformed Church in South Africa presented their proposal in consideration of the Cape Town International Conference Centre (CTICC). The Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) had yet to name a proposed conference location. Last month, EKD announced that Karlsruhe and the Karlsruhe Convention Center (Karlsruher Messe- und Kongress GmbH) was selected as the German venue.

Venue visits are being planned for January 2018 in advance of the first meeting of the assembly planning committee. They are also working on staffing capacities for the assembly.

Global Christian Forum (Doc. No.35)

Fr Prof. Dr Sauca presented an overview of this report. The guiding purpose statement of the forum was formulated at the 'Third Consultation on the Forum Proposal' (Pasadena, June 2002) and affirmed at the First Global Gathering (Limuru, November 2007). It continues to receive wide affirmation and serve the Forum well.

Clarification is needed on the responsibility for the Forum. Its definition should reflect (1) the leading role now accorded to the 'pillars' in both the committee and the 'common challenge' initiatives, and (2) the role of all other entities represented in the committee.

He shared the calendar of events and said that the executive committee is being asked to discuss the document, affirm its content and direction and, once the document is finalised, to authorise the general secretary to approve it on behalf of WCC.

WCC Code of Ethical Conduct (Doc. No. 36)

The general secretary shared that this document had been revised considerably since the last time the committee had seen it. Since it has legal implications, it needs to be approved by the executive committee, even if it is the general secretary who will ultimately implement it. The executive committee is asked to review and approve the WCC Code of Ethical Conduct.

Rev. Robina Winbush suggested that this kind of policy also be developed for governing body members. Dr Abuom asked the sub-committee to discuss this.

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul recommended that in addition to legal councils the WCC should get the opinion of their liability insurance broker before implementation.

WCC Child Safeguarding Policy (Doc. No. 37)

Ms Marianne Ejdersten presented this report. She noted it is one outcome of the EAPPI report from one year ago. At that time, they realized that the council does not have a child protection policy, particularly when accompanying children in Palestine and Israel. They appointed a working group and also worked with ACT Alliance who already had a child protection policy in place. She shared that this is very important work and they need to make the WCC a safe space for children. They also want to have a policy and procedure in place so that if anything happens then they take action right away. The question will be how to implement the policy and how to follow up afterwards.

The executive committee is asked to receive the WCC Child Safeguarding Policy and reflect, approve and offer advice on the general direction.

Dr Tveit noted that this is also about the Churches' Commitment to Children. He hopes that if this policy is approved then it can be something that churches can also use in their code of conduct. It offers a very concrete explanation of what this means to protect children against violence.

Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy (Doc. No. 38)

Ms Dykes presented this report. The executive committee approved the Council's Anti-fraud and Corruption Policy at its meeting 24-25 August 2009, Geneva. The text has been subject to small editing and it is brought to the committee for general information. It is being reviewed by auditors to comply with Swiss standards. Ms Dykes remarked that it is related to the former code, which has been replaced for a code of ethical conduct. The policy had to come back to the executive committee so that it relates to the higher authority.

Bishop Dr Swenson asked, after hearing all of these reports, if they can be referred to the sub-committee. The executive committee agreed to make these referrals.

8.2 Staffing and Other Matters

Bishop Dr Swenson moderated a closed session.

The general secretary offered a staffing report for information and shared about staff vacancies, recruitments, departures, the staff rules and regulations, with an update on the appointments and arrivals since the last executive committee meeting. No decisions needed to be made. The executive committee then discussed hiring processes and confessional and regional balance among staff.

Bishop Dr Swenson thanked for the staff at the executive committee meeting and their hard work.

Rev. Baoping Kan closed the session with prayer.

8.3 Action on the Report of the Staffing, Personnel, and Nominations Sub-Committee

Dr Abuom moderated a decision session. Rev. Martina Kopecká read the report.

8.3.1 Report of the General Secretary (Doc. No. 01)

The sub-committee received the report with appreciation. The committee discussed the content of the report and appreciated the reflections of the general secretary on Christian unity, recognizing the continuity and on-going importance of this subject in the life of the churches.

8.3.2 Mission and Proselytism in Multi-Christian Contexts (doc. No. 18)

The sub-committee discussed the document, which addresses intra-Christian relationships. It was seen as complimentary to the 2011 document "Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World" which dealt with interreligious relationships and was developed by the WCC, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) of the Roman Catholic Church and the World Evangelical Alliance. The Pentecostal World Fellowship participated in the development of this document along with the WCC, PCPCU and WEA. The WCC was unofficially informed that the Evangelicals and Pentecostals are ready to approve it and that the PCPCU is also considering it and will respond by the end of the year.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee affirms its content and direction and requests that the final edited version, which will incorporate the comments from the other partners, be brought to the executive committee meeting in June 2018 for final approval.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

8.3.3 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS (DOC. NO. 19)

A. Suspension of the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by His special Envoy Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguist Church) from WCC fellowship

The sub-committee was updated on the current situation with the Kimbanguist Church, which had been suspended at the central committee meeting in Trondheim, June 2016. Members felt strongly that this matter should be resolved as quickly as possible.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee asks the general secretary to meet with the church to clarify matters in order to present a report to the executive committee and the central committee at their June 2018 meetings.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

Guidelines for suspended member churches were discussed in the sub-committee in conjunction with the report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration (Doc. No. 23).

B. Doubt about the existence of some WCC member churches

The sub-committee was encouraged by the progress that had been made in relation to the WCC member churches:

- Eglise protestante d'Algérie (Protestant Church in Algeria)
- Bengal-Orissa-Bihar Baptist Convention and Samavesam of Telugu Baptist Church (India)
- International Evangelical Church (USA)

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee requests the general secretary continue to follow up on these churches and report to the next meeting of the executive committee in June 2018.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

C. Request of the Council of Christian Church-Leaders of Iraq (CCCLI) to be recognized as a council in relationship with WCC.

The sub-committee discussed the request of the CCCLI and noted that it is not a formal national Christian council, a national council of churches or a national ecumenical council (see WCC Rule XIII.1) but rather a platform or a forum where churches leaders in Iraq meet regularly.

Nevertheless, the sub-committee felt strongly that it would be important that the WCC supports the process for the CCCLI to become a genuine national ecumenical council. For this reason it is important that the WCC member churches in Iraq are in cooperation with the wider ecumenical family, starting with the Middle East Council of Churches.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee encourages the CCCLI to work more closely with the churches in the area and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC).

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

8.3.4 NOMINATIONS (DOC. NO. 20)

Nominations for the central committee and consultative bodies

A. Central Committee

i. Following the resignation of Rev. Alexander Vasyutin (M/O) from the Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate) from the central committee, the church nominates Archpriest Nikolai Danilevich (M/O), vice-chairman of the Department for External Church Relations of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate.

ii. Following the resignation of Very Rev. Housig Martirossian from the Armenian Apostolic Church (Holy See of Cilicia) from the central committee, the church nominates Rev. Hrant Tahanian (M/O/Y), director of the Ecumenical Office of the church to replace him.

B. Consultative Bodies

Commission on World Mission and Evangelism
Following the retirement of Rev. Dr B. Hunter Farrell (M/O), the Presbyterian Church (USA) nominates Rev. José Luis Casal (M/O), its new world mission director, to the commission.

Commission of the Churches in International Affairs (CCIA)
Following the retirement of Rev. Stephen Sidorak (M/O), the United Methodist Church nominates Dr Shaun Casey (M/L) to the commission.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee forward these recommendations to the central committee for action and that the nominees be invited to the respective meetings in anticipation of the decision of the central committee.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

C. Advisory Bodies

i. WCC Building Project Steering Committee

- Following the resignation of Rev. Laurent Schlumberger (Eglise protestante unie de France) from the committee, Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) has been named to replace him.
- Following the resignation of Bishop Eva Brunne (Church of Sweden) from the committee, Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd (Church of Sweden) has been named to replace her.

Until the central committee meets the executive committee appointed these members to the steering committee during a plenary session in order to ensure capacity of the committee to fulfil its mandate and instructed the general secretary to invite them to future meetings of the steering committee.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

Until the central committee meets, the executive committee confirms the appointment of the advisor to the steering committee, Mr Rolf Berweger, as recommended by the general secretary.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

ii. The sub-committee took note that the recommendations from the last meeting of the executive committee to increase the Orthodox presence in several advisory groups named by the general secretary had been accomplished.

D. Audit committee

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

In order to ensure continuity, the executive committee asks the two executive members currently on the committee, that is Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) and Dr Audeh Quawas (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem), to continue their function as audit committee members until the central committee meeting meets at which time two new executive committee members will be named as well as two external experts.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

8.3.5 CELEBRATION OF THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY (DOC. NO. 21)

The sub-committee reviewed the plans on celebrating the 70th anniversary and noted that the concept was not to organize only one celebration but to integrate the celebrations into all the planned activities of the council. An emphasis was made on carrying out the events in collaboration with member churches and ecumenical partners. The general secretary shared that he had contacted all the member churches asking whether their events planned for 2018 could also incorporate anniversary celebrations. The responses so far had been very positive.

The sub-committee was concerned that events would be taking place in all of the regions. The sub-committee was informed that this concern can be addressed through additional events organized by the member churches and ecumenical partners.

8.3.6 CENTRAL COMMITTEE PREPARATIONS (DOC. NO. 22, 22.1)

The sub-committee discussed the agenda and flow of the proposed central committee agenda and noted the subjects proposed for the thematic plenaries. The number of plenaries and their titles was agreed. Following the request for a thematic plenary on mission, the sub-committee stated that the meeting in June 2018 would not be the optimal time for a full plenary session on the results of the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism (March 2018).

The concern for the involvement of youth was raised in the discussions as well as the need for organizing plenaries that are engaging for the members.

It was also noted that the 70th anniversary celebration would be included in the central committee meeting.

Due to the important decisions that have to be taken concerning the next assembly, i.e. theme and venue selection, it was felt that an additional business session would be needed in the agenda. It was suggested to reduce the number of committee meetings of the central committee to facilitate this need.

Following some revisions in plenary:

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee instruct the general secretary to

A. **Add one more business plenary to the central committee agenda to ensure that all the assembly decisions can be made properly.**
B. **Ensure that a report of the Conference on World Mission and Evangelism, Arusha, Tanzania, March 2018 be included in a business session.**
C. **Ensure that a plenary on mission and evangelism be organized for the central committee meeting in 2020 for continued consideration for the churches and as an important contribution to the input into the 11th assembly.**
D. **"Include a young speaker within all plenaries" according to the recommendation by the ECHOS Commission on Youth Involvement in the Ecumenical Movement.**
E. **Organize the thematic plenaries in such a way as to be engaging and involve the participants in a more active way.**

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

8.3.7 PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON CONSENSUS AND COLLABORATION (DOC. NO. 23)

There was a lively discussion on the report of the PCCC and the issues it raised.

A. Consensus

The sub-committee noted that since the establishment of the Permanent Committee, it has served as monitor of the Council's implementation of consensus procedures, evaluating their strengths and weaknesses as observed and reported from meetings, and offering advice for opportunities to improve. At their last meeting (October 2017) the PCCC had undertaken an assessment of the use of consensus process decision-making in WCC meetings, including those of its commissions, and revisited the recommendation from the report of its last meeting regarding consensus facilitation at meetings of commissions.

In follow up to the recommendations of the PCCC, the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee recommends

i. **the practice of engaging the central committee in a review of the rationale and process for consensus decision-making, during an early session of its meeting, continue as standard practice;**
ii. **staff preparing the work of all committees and commissions provide the resources necessary for consensus process decision-making, namely: blue and orange cards for all participants, guidelines for consensus process, time included in agendas for meeting for preparation, review and agreement of documents, and facilities for projection of texts that need to be decided;**

iii. **commissions which may not have invited to at least one of its meetings a consensus facilitator be encouraged to do so, or to arrange for a live remote link or video review of the rationale and process of consensus decision-making;**
iv. **persons with expertise in consensus process decision-making be identified and invited to help resource meetings they attend as advisors, if needed; and**
v. **the general secretary make provision to follow and report back to the PCCC implementation of its recommendations.**

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

B. Preparations for the WCC 11th Assembly

The PCCC reminded that venue selection is conducted by vote (Rule XIX.10.a.3), and has implications for the Council's management of the selection process, as decisions taken by the fellowship under voting procedures require no less prayerful discernment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit than do other decisions. The sub-committee reaffirmed the need to ensure that venue selection during the next meeting of the central committee be conducted in a way that facilitates a prayerful, common effort of discernment before the Lord.

In follow up to the recommendations of the PCCC, the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee asks the general secretary, in preparation of materials to support venue selection, to ensure that leadership of session at the next central committee be prepared in a way that lifts up the importance of prayerful discernment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit, assisting the central committee in its decision regarding appropriate venue for this period in the history of the WCC. Materials should reflect that decisions that will be conducted by vote under Rule XIX.10.a.3 require no less prayerful discernment of the guidance of the Holy Spirit than do other decisions.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

C. Membership Matters

The sub-committee noted that suspension of a church from membership is a concept new to the fellowship, and that the Rule I.6 is new since the central committee in Crete, 2012, for the first time providing a rule related to resignation and suspension of a member church. The issues related to guidelines on relationships with a suspended WCC member church were discussed and a proposed contribution to the Supplement to the Rules is attached in Appendix IV.

In follow up to the recommendations of the PCCC, the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee

i. **Submits to the central committee for approval, the edited proposal regarding the relationships between the WCC and a suspended member church. They apply to the churches whose membership has been suspended according to WCC Rules I.6.b.iii (see Appendix 2).**
ii. **Encourages the general secretary to continue study and reflection on the process for addressing suspensions of churches from membership in the WCC and how to relate with a suspended church. The PCCC is willing to continue to assist with discernment about the process related to this new Rule.**

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

D. Fair and adequate representation

The sub-committee affirmed the conclusions in the report of the PCCC:

> The WCC's request to its member churches for sending balanced delegations to the assemblies, according to the established targets, has not always been respected. The committee stresses that the churches must in good faith search among their various levels of participation and leadership in order to compose delegations to the assemblies that meet the target balances set by the central committee for representation of lay persons, indigenous peoples, and differently-abled people, and balance of men, women and young people. Doing so presents an opportunity for the member church to identify new persons who could be called to represent their church and cultivated as responsible ecumenical representatives, while at the same time to honour its commitment to the ecumenical movement and to other member churches. (54)
>
> The PCCC considers that the term "fair and adequate" regarding representation as used in Rule VI.8.a.vi properly guides the formation of governing bodies, committees and commissions. The analysis above would suggest that this formulation remains the best possible way of expressing the intention to provide for representation of all of the stated constituencies, while maintaining as priority confessional, regional and cultural balance on the governing bodies. The question remains as to what concrete strategies could be considered to further compel churches to send delegations to assemblies that are composed to reflect target balances set by the WCC for *fair and adequate representation of lay persons, indigenous peoples, and differently-abled people, and balance of men, women and young people*. The committee recognizes the importance of this issue and will continue this deliberation at its next meeting.

The sub-committee also affirmed that on the level of the Rules, it is difficult to find a better formulation than Rule VI.8.a.vi. It is always a challenge to balance the participation and the fact that it is the churches who nominate their representatives. The central committee has an important role in the last stage of naming assembly delegates through the 15% process. For the moment this is the best instrument we have to address this. The sub-committee recognizes the importance of this issue and takes note that the PCCC will continue to deliberate on this matter at its next meeting.

Rev. Dr Kamba Kasongo asked about the term "differently-abled people". She noted that the Ecumenical Disabilities Advocates Network (EDAN) of the WCC has been using "people with disabilities"; this is therefore the correct terminology that should be used. Dr Quawas then referred to Rule VI 8 of the constitution which uses the language of "differently abled people", and noted that the nominations sub-committee took the language from that document. Bishop Simo Peura added that if a change would modify a direct quotation of the PCCC. The PCCC was using the language in the rules. As such, we would need to use the original language in the report.

Rev. Dr Kamba Kasongo shared that in practice, EDAN uses "people with disabilities". She noted that we need to use uniformity, and use the same language in all WCC documents. In some documents, it says "people with disabilities", and in others we use "differently abled people". Dr Abuom stated that what EDAN uses and what is in the rules are two different things. This may be an evolution of language and will have to be addressed.

The general secretary shared that we need to quote correctly. If language needs to be changed, then that will need to be raised in another place to be addressed. Another discussion at another time could address whether to change the language in the rules. Dr Abuom asked that the issue be noted in the minutes.

E. Constitutional Matters

The sub-committee noted that it is the responsibility of the executive committee to discern if there are matters that require a change in the WCC Constitution and Rules but that there are none at this time.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee asks the general secretary, with respect to any changes to the Constitution and Rules, to inform the governance and nominations committee of the CC of the issues that the leadership of the Council has identified regarding articles of the Constitution or Rules that may need to be revised.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

F. Prayer and "Common Prayer" in the Ecumenical Movement

The sub-committee agreed that the Report of the Special Commission and its Appendix A needs to be a point of reference when planning the prayer life of the assembly. Prayer is an important and visible element in the daily life of the WCC, and in WCC gatherings.

In follow up to the recommendations of the PCCC, the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee asks

i. The Assembly Planning Committee and the Assembly Worship Committee use as resources the relevant sections of the Report of the Special Commission on Common Prayer, and undertake its planning with attention to the guidance provided in the Report and the framework in Appendix A; and

ii. The general secretary to require that all staff of the WCC, especially newly hired staff and those with responsibility for the preparation of prayer services for WCC meetings and gatherings, be provided with the relevant sections of the Report of the Special Commission on Common Prayer, including Appendix A.

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

8.3.8 ASSEMBLY PREPARATIONS UPDATE (DO. NO. 24)

The sub-committee discussed the assembly preparations and noted that the infrequency of CC meetings brings some challenges in decision making for assembly, i.e. deciding on theme and venue at the same time. A process between February and June 2018 is needed in order to involve the member churches in preparation of the discussion on the theme for the next assembly. The general secretary expressed his willingness to ask the churches to send their proposals with a deadline however it would be helpful to be able to provide some parameters including a list of assembly themes since 1948. The assembly planning committee is best placed to provide such guidelines.

The sub-committee also said that it would be necessary to properly prepare the CC members for both the theme and venue decisions. In order to assist in this task the general secretary calls a small group of staff to begin the discussions in the secretariat.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee

A. Asks the general secretary, with his staff, prepare the decisions to be taken at the central committee on both theme and venue.

B. Asks the assembly planning committee, at its meeting in February 2018 to outline a process for soliciting input from the member churches on a possible assembly theme between February and June 2018 as input into the central committee discussions.

C. **Encourages the general secretary to use the already planned events and consultations between February and June 2018 to elicit input from the member churches on the assembly theme.**

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

8.3.9 DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE GOVERNING BODIES MEETINGS (DOC. NO. 26)

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee accept the following proposals for the meetings in 2019 and 2020:

- **Executive committee 22-28 May 2019**
- **Executive committee 20-26 November 2019**
- **Executive committee 9-10 June 2020**
- **Central committee 11-17 June 2020**
- **Executive committee 29 Oct - 4 November 2020**

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

8.3.10 THE GLOBAL CHRISTIAN FORUM / A PROPOSAL FOR A STRUCTURE (DOC. NO. 35)

The sub-committee discussed the document on the proposal for the structure of the Global Christian Forum and affirmed that the responsibilities of the four participant bodies which gave birth to the forum and support it now (World Council of Churches, Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity/Roman Catholic Church, World Evangelical Alliance and Pentecostal World Fellowship) be further explained and elaborated.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee proposes that the revised statement on the structure of GCF be amended as follows:

A. Responsibility for the forum

i. The following four parties share the responsibility for the Global Christian Forum

- **World Council of Churches**
- **Roman Catholic Church (Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity)**
- **World Evangelical Alliance**
- **Pentecostal World Fellowship**

iii. The structure and the mandate of the forum must be approved unanimously by these four parties ("pillars").

iv. The work is done in cooperation with the Christian world communions (to be named) and international ecumenical Christian organisations.

B. Structure of the Forum

i. The governing structure should be further developed and clarified, concerning the functions of the forum, the mandate and lines of accountability, and the finances of the forum.

ii. The structure should be clarified before the meeting of the forum in April 2018.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

Fr Prof. Dr Sauca stated that Christian World Communions (CWC) includes Lutheran World Federation and others. They will come with names from CWCs.

He also observed that the Orthodox churches were removed. Earlier, it had noted the Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox. They should be brought back for those churches to be part of this. Dr Quawas shared that they discussed this thoroughly. The Orthodox churches are members of the WCC while the others are not. He noted that they divide within the WCC to refer to churches who are members of the WCC; this would minimize the importance of the WCC.

Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev noted Orthodox should be mentioned as participants of the Forum, and not just as members of the WCC. There is a lot of participation but the Orthodox churches are not visible there. He noted that the Forum is more independent. He had a question about accountability. The Forum was clearly and purposefully separated from the WCC in order for it to be more attractive for evangelicals, who are not part of the WCC and who have a problem of participating in the ecumenical movement. The Forum was designed as a place where those churches could participate and could come to the table.

Dr Abuom noted the concern about the inclusion of the Orthodox families, and asked if they should be included. Metropolitan Nifon replied that this was a very long discussion in their committee. On one hand, they appreciate that there is such a Forum, and are happy about any kind of Christian gathering in the world in order to preach some principles in a secularized world. On the other hand, they are people of responsibility in certain institutions. The WCC was a founder of the Forum from the beginning. They wanted to make sure that all of them should understand what the Forum is really about, in terms of structure, and also in terms of organization.

For some there is doubt about the structure, nature, and ethos of the Forum. They know it is part of the ecumenical movement, but want to be very clear in terms of the relationship with the Forum. They need to make sure that the WCC has a real say in making decisions. Together with this Forum, those who are outside the WCC (i.e., Roman Catholic Church, World Evangelical Alliance, Pentecostal World Fellowship), the world "leader" was used to ensure clarity.

The general secretary shared the proposal responded to the question of mandate of the Forum. It is not, for example, a forum that speaks on behalf of the church. This speaks to the need to develop this further with more clarity. The idea was to bring more clarity for the sake of the Forum in the future. Then also, it is not accountability but what kind of financial platform this Forum should have.

The last question was about how the Orthodox churches should be mentioned here. He noted that this formulation should be used. This is a question that can be discussed. But this is the proposal from the sub-committee.

With these clarifications, the executive committee agreed to keep the original wording.

8.3.11 WCC Code of Ethical Conduct (Doc. No. 36)

The sub-committee went through the document very carefully approving each section. Following the comments in the plenary, the sub-committee agreed that it would be helpful to have a similar code of conduct for the governing and consultative bodies of the WCC.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee

A. Approve the document for implementation and

B. A code of conduct for governing bodies, commissions, consultative and advisory bodies be drafted along similar lines for approval at the next meeting of the executive committee for decision by the central committee in June 2018.

These recommendations were approved by consensus.

8.3.12 WCC CHILD SAFEGUARDING POLICY (DOC. NO. 37)

The sub-committee welcomed the draft policy noting how important it is that the WCC have such a policy as well as providing a model for child protection policies for the member churches. It was felt that an introduction with a theological basis would be helpful for the policy and that the language and content should be looked at from a multi-cultural perspective, as fits the WCC constituency. Concern was also expressed about compliance with legal requirements in various countries and those of the WCC's liability insurance broker.

The staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee recommends that

The executive committee recommend that further work be done on the policy, taking into account the comments from the discussion and that the policy be brought back to the next meeting of the executive committee in preparation for a decision to be made by the central committee in June 2018.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

8.3.13 PROGRAMME SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON COMMISSION MEETINGS

The sub-committee received the proposal below

The programme sub-committee discussed as a question of the mid-term evaluation where the issues of the overall functioning of the commissions should be discussed and addressed the following open questions to the governance group:

1. The frequency of commission meetings;
The programme sub-committee asks for a review of the frequency of meetings to ensure the necessary continuity, effectiveness and cohesiveness in the work of the commissions as well as in the interrelationship between the commissions and the whole work of the WCC.

2. The regular absence of commissioners from commission meetings. Specific regulations should be established to secure the commission work.

3. Strengthening the cooperation between commissions by appointing liaisons to other commissions. The programme sub-committee affirms the proposal of Faith and Order to appoint commissioners who will liaison with other commissions and recommends that for all commissions; acknowledging that ECHOS already has this practice.

While recognizing the importance of the matters raised, the sub-committee recommends that:

The executive committee refer the issues to the general secretary for further consideration.

This recommendation was approved by consensus.

Rev. Dr Kamba Kasongo asked about Most Rev. Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko. She noted that he is leaving the executive committee; will he still be member of the building steering committee? Dr Tveit replied that the committee is composed of central and executive committee members. He is a continuing central committee member so can stay on the steering committee.

The report as a whole was approved by consensus.

Following the discussion, Dr Abuom invited the executive committee to have a moment of silence. Bishop White offered a prayer to close the session.

9. Closing Actions

9.1 Appreciations to Outgoing Executive Committee Members and Host

The general secretary expressed his thanks and appreciation to the outgoing members of the executive committee. Their terms on the executive will come to an end on 31 December 2017. After that time, new members will join the executive committee. Dr Tveit then presented each outgoing member with a gift, as a token of appreciation for their service. The entire executive committee expressed their thanks. Thanks were also extended to Dr Audeh Quawas and his church, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem, for hosting this meeting in Jordan.

9.2 Evaluation

Dr Abuom moderated a hearing session.

She noted that the purpose of this session would be to harvest lessons from our time together to help improve our work, and to help the new executive members. This executive committee, which was appointed after the 10th assembly in Busan, has had an expanded mandate with more powers to take decisions, monitor, and advise. This evaluation will consider if we have been effective in our work.

The three questions were offered for small group reflections:

- What are the achievements of the executive committee?
- What were the challenges?
- What are some suggestions for improvements?

The committee broke into small groups and following the discussion, Dr Abuom invited the groups to share in the plenary. A summary is noted as follows:

Achievements:

- Good learning experiences, and addressing issues as part of the PJP; better understanding of global situations
- Members applying what they have learned in their local contexts
- Good spirit of ecumenism; having a common vision
- Some members of the WCC being active with international and secular organizations
- Trust-building, community building, and fellowship; good and respectful atmosphere
- Appreciation of staff work; the staff presence, and input, in committees was helpful
- Positive experience of Dr Abuom's leadership and moderation

Challenges:

- How to best integrate new incoming members of the executive committee
- Late publication of documents that will be discussed at meetings
- Some people did not speak in the plenary or at sub-committee meetings; not all participated
- Not enough time for decision-making sessions: they have seemed rushed for approvals
- Ability to access documents because of Internet challenges
- Absence of many executive committee members at meetings

Suggestions for improvement:

- Better clarifying the relationship between finance and programme; more time is needed to prepare each other, and to work together on strategic planning processes
- Orientation needed for the new members at their first meeting
- Consider translating documents (into languages other than English) for the regions
- Composition of sub-committee meetings

Dr Abuom offered thanks for these inputs. The leadership of the central committee listened carefully to their comments, and will consider these when structuring the next meeting.

On behalf of the leadership of the central committee, Dr Abuom offered her thanks, and wished everyone a safe journey. Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit added his thanks, and shared that he would like to see the executive committee continue to work hard and efficiently. He has enjoyed working with everyone.

9.3 CLOSING

Bishop Dr Swenson offered a closing prayer.

Dr Abuom declared that the executive committee was concluded at 12:01 p.m.

APPENDIX I: PARTICIPANT'S LIST

Moderator	Dr Agnes Abuom
Vice-Moderator	Bishop Mary Ann Swenson
General Secretary	Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
Members	Dr Abune Aregawi Melese, Bishop of South Gondar
	H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian
	Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah
	Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber
	Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev
	Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang
	Rev. Karl Johnson
	Rev. Dr Micheline Kamba Kasongo
	Rev. Baoping Kan
	Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká
	Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
	H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste
	Bishop Simo Peura
	Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian
	Dr Audeh B. Quawas
	Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins
	Bishop John F. White
	Rev. Robina Winbush
Apologies	Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
	Rev. Dr Paul Gardner
	H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima
	Mr Thomas Hyeono Kang
	Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou
	Most Rev. Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko
Observer	Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul
Advisers	Mr Nidal Abuzuluf
	Mr Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
	Metropolitan Dr Mor Geevarghese Coorilos
	Rt Rev. Dr Munib A. Younan
Minute-Taker	Ms Adele Halliday
Staff	Ms Diana Chabloz
	Ms Catherine Christ-Taha
	Mr Doug Chial
	Ms Elaine Dykes
	Ms Marianne Ejdersten
	Mr Mark Johnson
	Rev. Dr Jooseop Keum
	Ms Carla Khijoyan
	Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri
	Mr Peter Prove
	Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca

APPENDIX II: APPROVED MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Programme
Dr Agnes Abuom
Dr Abune Aregawi Melese, Bishop of South Gondar
Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber
Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang
Rev. Karl Johnson
Rev. Dr Micheline Kamba Kasongo
Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins (mod)
Rev. Robina Winbush

Advisers
Mr Nidal Abuzuluf
Mr Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
Metropolitan Dr Mor Geevarghese Coorilos
Rt Rev. Dr Munib A. Younan

Apologies:
Mr Thomas Hyeono Kang
Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou

Finance
H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (mod)
Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev
Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Adviser
Ms Anne Glynn-Mackoul

Apologies:
Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
Rev. Dr Paul Gardner
Most Rev. Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko

Staffing, Personnel and Nominations
Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah
Rev. Baoping Kan
Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká
H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste
Bishop Simo Peura (mod)
Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian
Dr Audeh B. Quawas
Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit
Bishop John F. White

Apologies:
H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima

Public Issues
Dr Agnes Abuom
Mr Nidal Abuzuluf
Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah
Mr Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
Rev. Baoping Kan
Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste (mod)
Dr Audeh B. Quawas
Rev. Robina Winbush
Rt Rev. Dr Munib A. Younan

APPENDIX III: REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY – VISITS AND MEETINGS FROM JUNE 2017 TO NOVEMBER 2017

DATE	PLACE	PURPOSE
June 14	Hofgeismar, Germany	Theology and Ecology Seminar– Deliver main lecture
June 15-16	Stockholm, Sweden Arvidsjaur, Sweden	Visit Bishop Eva Brunne Sami Festival – Preach at worship service
June 18	Bern, Switzerland	Greetings at the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on 18 June in Bern
June 20-21	Jerusalem, Palestine	Consultation on 50 Years of Occupation and the Ecumenical Response
June 28-30	Leipzig, Germany	WCRC Council – Presented greetings
June 31-July 2	Volda, Norway	Consultation Church of Norway
July 28-August 14	PACIFIC • Maohi-Nui (French Polynesia) • Tonga • Fiji • Aotearoa, New Zealand	Led delegation on official visit to the Pacific. Delegation was made up of: • Dr Mele'ana Puloka (Pacific President) • Pastor Taaroanui (President of the Maohi Protestant Church and member of the CC and ExCom) • Dr Katalina Tahaafe-Williams (WCC Programme Executive Mission and Evangelism) The delegation participated in meetings with church authorities and parishioners, government authorities, civil society and participated and shared in worship. Maohi-Nui: Meetings with Maohi Protestant Church; government authorities and political leaders; Auckland, Aotearoa-New Zealand : Meeting of Pacific church leaders organised by the Pacific Council of Churches. Wellington, Aotearoa-New Zealand: Follow-up of issues raised during the GS visit to NZ in October 2016; Meetings with youth and ecumenical leaders. Tonga: Meeting with church and ecumenical leaders of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga (FWCT); with His Eminence Cardinal Mafi, Chair of the Tonga National Council of Churches; Tonga National Council of Churches; Visited the Tonga Ecumenical Centre; Tonga National Forum of Church Leaders; Audience with His Majesty King Tupou VI; Meeting with Prime Minister and cabinet ministers; Fiji : Meetings with Methodist Church in Fiji; exposure visit to squatter settlement; Met with President of Fiji Major-General Jioti Konrote – discussions on climate chain and participation at COP23 (complete report on the visit available from the GS office)
August 23	Vatican City	Official visit by Dr Agnes Abuom and General Secretary to His Holiness Pope Francis Meetings with: • The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development • Lunch with Cardinal Koch • Dinner with Dr Emberti in the San Egidio community,
August 25-27	Wittenberg, Germany	Lead celebration of Lima Liturgy – Preach at worship

DATE	PLACE	PURPOSE
September 8-9 September 11-13	USA Collegeville, MN New York, NY	• Panel Discussion on The Past as Prologue – The Reformation and the Future of Christian Dialogue • Meeting with students at Collegeville – Saint John's Campus • Preach homily at Abbey Mass • Co-preside evening prayer with the Abbot (sharing responsibilities for readings and prayers) • Leading by Example: Religious leaders and HIV testing • Interfaith prayer breakfast organized by WCC in partnership with PEPFAR, UNAIDS and IAFT
September 26-27	Helsinki, Finland	• Meetings with FELM • Meeting with Rev. Dr Seppo Rissanen • Visit Finnish Ecumenical Council • Meeting with Archbishop Dr Kari Mäkinen • Meeting with Tomi Karttunen, Risto Jukko and other colleagues in Finnish Ecumenical Council • FCA 70th Anniversary celebrations – anniversary worship – Preached Sermon
September 28-October 1	Delhi, India	• Meeting with Rev. Alwan Masih, General Secretary, Church of North India • Overseas Partners Meeting • Synod of the Church of North India – Inaugural Address • Meeting with religious minorities and civil society
October 10-12	Nairobi, Kenya	LCC Meeting and Meetings with: • the Most Rev. Jackson Ole Sapit, Primate and Archbishop of All Kenya (Anglican) • Local staff of EHAIA • EDAN staff • H.E. Metropolitan Dr Makarios of Kenya and Irinoupolis, Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa • National Council of Churches of Kenya • Organization of African Instituted Churches • Meetings with Kenyan member churches
October 15-16	Yangon, Myanmar	Diamond Jubilee celebrations and the Asia Mission Conference (AMC) of the CCA Preach in local church Deliver Diamond Jubilee Message
October 30-31	Wittenberg, Germany	500th anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation Tveit was presented as a representative of churches worldwide with a facsimile of the 95 Theses, symbolising the contribution of Reformation churches to the whole of world Christianity.
November 1-2	Oslo, Norway	Meetings with Church of Norway and Foreign Affairs Ministry
November 13-15	Bonn, Germany	EDK Synod – Present Greetings; discussions on COP 19

Meetings in Geneva

DATE	PLACE	PURPOSE
June 23	Ecumenical Institute Bossey	Meeting with central committee members from the DRC H.B. Patriarch Jean Baudouin Kayuwa and Mrs Marceline Mbingasani Maluavanga
June 23	WCC	Meeting with Teresa Cariño, Amity Foundation
August 21	WCC	Meeting of the 70th Anniversary Planning Committee
August 22	WCC	Meeting with H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima
August 22	WCC	Tray lunch with Rebecca Daly, Laurate of the 2017 Sergio Vieira de Mello Award recipient
August 22	WCC	Visit of the Evangelish-lutherishce Landeskirche Hannover
August 28	WCC	Visit of Tony Namkung – independent consultant/advisor to the US Government on the Korean peninsula situation
August 30	WCC	Delegation from Senate of Serampore College, India
August 31	WCC	Visit of Estela de Carlotto, President of the Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo in Argentina
September 1	Ecumenical Centre	MEP Landscape Architect exhibition "World Council of Churches"
September 14	WCC	Delegation from Presbyterian Church Taiwan
September 15	WCC	Visit of the United Church of Christ (together with the United Church of Canada)
September 16-19	Ecumenical Institute Bossey and WCC	Ecumenical Officers Meeting
September 18	Ecumenical Institute Bossey and WCC	Delegation from Norwegian Church Aid
September 20-22	Ecumenical Institute Bossey and WCC	Delegation from Church of Norway Council
September 20-22	Ecumenical Centre	Staff Enrichment Days
September 22	Ecumenical Institute Bossey	GS Lecture on Pilgrimage
September 25	Ecumenical Centre	International Ecumenical Hearing on Racism, Discrimination, Afrophobia And Xenophobia: The Experience Of People Of African Descent In The USA – Opening Remarks by the GS
September 25	Ecumenical Centre	Trilateral Meeting of the General Secretaries of WCC, LWC and ACT Alliance
October 3-5	Ecumenical Centre	Ecumenical Strategic Forum
October 18	Café du Soleil, Geneva	Dinner with Finnish group of Lutheran Missiologists and mission experts
October 18	WCC	Video conference PIEF
October 19	WCC	Meeting the new Moderator of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod, Rev. Masauko Mbolembole
October 24	WCC	Meeting with Rev. Karl Johnson, General Secretary, Jamaica Baptist Union and Central Committee member
October 25	WCC	Address Mid-Term Evaluation Team meeting in Geneva
October 30	IOM	Meeting with the Director General of the UN International Organization for Migration, Mr Lacey Swing
November 3	By phone from Oslo	Phone conversation with Mr Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General
November 7	Palais Wilson	Lecture – The Role of Religions in Reinforcing World Peace organised by the World Islamic League
November 9	WCC	Visit of H.E. Dr Mohammad Alissa, President World Islamic League

APPENDIX IV: STATUS OF A SUSPENDED MEMBER CHURCH IN WCC

Proposed text for approval by the central committee, June 2018

1. Rule I.6.c defines a relationship of the WCC with a suspended member church: "When the central committee suspends the membership of a church the general secretary shall present progress reports to the executive committee until a solution is mutually agreed. Any decision about the membership status of the church shall be taken by the central committee."

2. During the period of suspension, the suspended church is to be removed from the list of WCC member churches, and named in an internal separate list entitled "Suspended churches" with the following explanation "Suspended member church, as per decision of the central committee taken in place, date…"

3. It is expected that a suspended WCC member church will affirmatively assert and provide evidence of their commitment to Article I.3 of the WCC Rules as a starting point for seeking re-admission in the fellowship as a full member.

4. Based on the recommendation of general secretary, central committee may decide to invite the suspended church to send observers to assemblies (Rules IV. 1. c.i.). In case of such a participation, all related costs shall be covered by the suspended member church.

5. Representatives of the suspended church cannot be elected to any WCC committee, commission or consultative body, or hired as WCC staff in a category which requires endorsement from a member church. In the event the suspended church has representatives in WCC committees, commissions or consultative bodies, their membership in these bodies is revoked immediately after the WCC central committee decision.

6. A suspended church will be encouraged to continue informing the Council about its concerns, priorities and activities and to nurture its ability of becoming full part of the ecumenical family.

7. Representatives of a suspended church cannot represent WCC in any capacity and context like delegations, anniversaries, celebrations, etc.

8. A suspended church should receive decisions of the central committee as well as WCC main documents, press releases etc. for information and study.

A suspended church should not make an annual contribution to the general budget of WCC.